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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Schools fight chronic absenteeism

Olympics-themed competition among strategies to boost attendance that has sagged in pandemic

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Winter Olympics-themed decorations surround the atrium inside Naylor School, a historically well-performing elementary school in Hartford's South End

with about 400 students. There are handmade flags, a torch made of colored tissue paper and a white board tracking the medal count.

This February, dubbed Attendance Olympics Month, students and staff at Hartford Public Schools are going for gold. Events

modeled after a number of attendance-based goals are part of a districtwide push to combat rates of chronic absenteeism that have exploded in the wake of the pandemic.

"We're finding that the more that we put the positive relationships that focus on attendance, and also bring that fun competition into play, it builds a collegiality across schools, but also helps us

share best practices," said Corinne Barney, the district's attendance strategy lead and an executive director of school leadership.

Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing at least 10% of school days regardless of whether absences are excused, is a long-standing problem in Hartford schools. The district declared it a crisis in 2018,

Turn to Absences, Page 2

19%

The chronic absentee rate in Connecticut in the 2020-21 school year, up from 9.9% in 2016-17. In Hartford, the absentee rate reached 47% at the end of January, nearly double the 25% rate from 2018, when a crisis was declared.

"When we first opened, people would say to me, 'Oh, you must be the brewer's wife.' Never has anyone assumed I am the owner. People are taken aback when they find out."

— Joy Braddock, co-founder of Hog River Brewing Co. in Hartford



Joy Braddock, from left, of Hog River Brewing Co., Alisa Bowens-Mercado of Rhythm Brewing Company, and Hop Culture Farms & Brew Co.'s Abigail Bibens and Heather Wilson are teaming to create a beer to raise money for scholarships to train female brewers. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Crafting a plan

Female brewers create beer to raise money for brewing scholarship for women

By Susan Dunne | Hartford Courant

For millennia, beermaking was the role of women, a common household task. That changed in the 16th century, when beermaking became male territory. That remains the case today. Men dominate big beer companies and the stereotypical crew at a craft brewery is "three guys with beards," said Joy Braddock.

Braddock is co-owner of Hog River Brewing Co. in Hartford. She and two Connecticut female craft brewers — Heather Wilson of Hop Culture Farms & Brew Co. in Colchester and Alisa Bowens-Mercado of Rhythm Brewing Co. in New Haven — want to encourage more women to get into the beer industry.

They are collaborating to create a limited edition beer to be released March 5. A portion of proceeds will be donated to The

CT Pink Boots Society Scholarship for Women in Brewing, to support women enrolling in the Brewing Science Certificate Program at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

The collaboration beer, a fruited IPA with peach and Cara Cara orange purees, is called Bombshell. The can is designed by Kristen Ganci of Mount Hook studios of Hartford.

Turn to Brewers, Page 3



Bombshell is the beer being collaboratively created by Braddock, Wilson and Bowens-Mercado. **HOG RIVER BREWING CO./COURTESY**

Truck protest ends at key crossing

US-Canada bridge remains closed; deal reached in Ottawa

By Rob Gillies and Corey Williams
Associated Press

WINDSOR, Ontario — Police moved in to clear and arrest the remaining protesters near the busiest U.S.-Canadian border

crossing Sunday, ending a demonstration against COVID-19 restrictions that has hurt the economy of both nations, even as they held back from a crackdown on a larger protest in the capital, Ottawa.

The protest in Ottawa has paralyzed downtown, infuriated residents who are fed up with police inaction and turned up pressure on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The demonstrations have reverberated across Canada and

beyond, with similar convoys in France, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned that truck convoys may be in the works in the United States.

Windsor police said more than two dozen people were peacefully arrested, seven vehicles were towed and five were seized near the Ambassador Bridge that links their city — and numerous Cana-

dian automotive plants — with Detroit.

"Today, our national economic crisis at the Ambassador Bridge came to an end," said Windsor's Mayor Drew Dikens, who expressed hope the bridge would reopen soon. "Border crossings will reopen when it is safe to do so and I defer to police and border agencies to make that determination."

Turn to Protest, Page 3

Troubles mount for State Pier project

Envisioned wind hub overdue, overbudget, under investigation

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

The ambitious plan to transform an aging New London pier into a hub for Connecticut's offshore wind industry has long been besieged by delays and ballooning costs.

When Gov. Ned Lamont's administration announced in 2019 that it had reached a harbor development agreement to redevelop the dilapidated State Pier, the initial price tag was \$93 million, and officials aimed to complete it by March 2022.

Now, the project remains a year from completion, its estimated cost has swelled by 250%, and it has drawn the attention of federal investigators looking into spending projects overseen by Konstantinos Diamantis, the former deputy secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, who was fired by Lamont last year.

In October, the U.S. Attorney's office in New Haven served a federal grand jury subpoena to the Lamont administration, requesting all communication dating to Jan. 1, 2018, connected to Diamantis' involvement with school construction projects, hazardous materials abatement projects and the State Pier project.

The redevelopment of State Pier — which sits a few miles upstream from the mouth of the Thames River — involves dredging the surrounding riverbed and filling in the space between two existing piers to create a much larger area with upgraded heavy-lift capacity.

The new pier will be used to construct and stage wind turbines for Revolution Wind, Connecticut's first offshore wind farm, as well as South Fork Wind and Sunrise Wind. Backed by a joint venture of Eversource and the Danish wind energy company Ørsted, the three projects will collectively provide enough clean energy to power more than one million homes in Connecticut,

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Rams win Super Bowl on late touchdown

Cooper Kupp caught a 1-yard touchdown pass from Matthew Stafford with 1:25 remaining as the Rams beat the Bengals 23-20 to win the Super Bowl on Sunday night. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

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Absences

from Page 1

when rates of chronic absenteeism floated around 25%. Then came COVID-19.

Compounding challenges

Rates nearly doubled statewide, from 9.9% in 2016-17 to 19% in 2020-21. Absenteeism was worse in Hartford, reaching 47% at the end of January, according to John Fergus, a Hartford Public Schools spokesperson.

When the pandemic arrived in March 2020, long periods of remote or hybrid instruction posed challenges for students who lacked access to reliable, high-speed internet. Others struggled to focus while attending school through a computer screen, in some cases disengaging completely.

Now, the district is aiming to get its rate down to 45%. Myriad barriers stand in the way, and few fall on students themselves.

Access to reliable transportation can pose a challenge for children of working families, noted Alesia Ettson, acting principal at Naylor. Some older students go to work instead, or stay home to take care of younger siblings when families can't find, or afford, child care.

Stemming the tide of chronic absenteeism is a priority in part to bridge the learning gap that emerged during the pandemic. Children who miss large amounts of school are more likely to or fall behind their peers or drop out of school later, research shows.

The consequences extend to social and emotional well-being, Ettson said, particularly for younger students. "If you're not here, you're not going to develop those trusting relationships; you're not going to feel part of the larger community," she said.

In the fall, rates of chronic absenteeism in Hartford schools fell as low as 35% — still not ideal, but an



Corinne Barney, Hartford Public Schools' attendance strategy lead and executive director of school leadership, left, and Alesia Ettson, acting principal at Naylor School, stand in front of decorations for the school's Attendance Olympics, aimed at improving attendance. SEAMUS MCAVOY/HARTFORD COURANT

improvement over last year and showing signs of returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Barney said that progress was wiped out by the wave of threats circulated on social media that swept schools across the state and country ahead of Dec. 17. More than 5,000 kids — nearly one-third of the district's enrollment — were absent on a single day in December as parents, worried about school safety, kept their children home.

Weather delays the next week kept more kids home, and the district limped into winter break with poor attendance. Then, in January, a sharp rise of COVID-19 cases driven by the highly transmissible omicron variant saddled school staff with unprecedented staffing challenges.

Students with close contacts missed school to quarantine, and others were kept home by fearful parents. Ettson and her assistant principals found themselves covering for sick teachers in

the classroom, and schools throughout the district lacked capacity to continue rigorous outreach programs.

"We were in a really positive place ... and then December and January came," Barney said. "It was like, 'Happy holidays. We're giving you a present, and not the good kind.'"

Removing barriers

As case counts dwindle to pre-omicron levels, addressing chronic absenteeism is again taking focus in Hartford Public Schools.

Barney leads the wide-ranging District Attendance Strategy Team, which focuses on attendance, culture and engagement and sets the agenda for each individual school-based attendance team.

Each school has its own representatives responsible for implementing district strategies and conducting community outreach, like

phone calls or home visits to households of absent students.

Partnership team members had made close to 4,000 home visits and about 50,000 phone calls by the beginning of the calendar year, Fergus said.

Ettson said she takes the most pride in the efforts her staff have made to reshape the perception of home visits, which she said were sometimes seen as punitive. Now, the messaging is about finding out what barriers stand in the way of a child attending school, and what the district can do to help.

Barney also works to keep school administrators informed as to where the district is relative to its goals. That means frequent meetings, weekly emails with data updates and recommended strategies to address the root cause of absenteeism for a given student.

"There's no one size fits all. It really depends on the family and how they're

impacted, whether it's COVID or not," Ettson said.

As Ettson and other administrators work to build trust with families, schools are also trying to build fun incentives while emphasizing the importance of coming to school.

Students no longer have to wear school uniforms on Wednesdays, now half days, and are encouraged to instead dress according to that week's theme. "Heritage Day" was a recent theme at Naylor; another was "Work It Wednesday," which encouraged kids to go all out in fancy clothes.

Each Naylor student gets a punch card; five punches lets them pick out a prize from the "Dragon-mobile," the mobile, COVID-friendly version of the school store.

Important in these activities is that the students are empowered to lead the way, Ettson said. Naylor's student government council, a team of fifth graders, meets during lunch to vote on the classroom that did the

best job with the theme, and the chosen class gets a prize.

"The more kids understand the importance of attendance, the more they start to own it," Barney said.

Schools will also be voting on a video competition for original work that features the importance of school attendance.

In accordance with the Winter Olympics and the district's Black History Month celebrations, Barney's team also shared research on Black athletes who have cited regular attendance and education as integral to their success.

Students who show up on Wednesday also get a ticket, which gives them permission to dress in street clothes on Friday. Average daily attendance has traditionally taken a hit on both days, Ettson said, either because of the early release or the coming weekend.

These efforts run jointly with the school's quarterly pushes for perfect attendance, like the Pie the Principal Day held before winter break. "We didn't anticipate that many kids having perfect attendance," Ettson said. "Let's just say, I haven't had whipped cream since."

At Naylor, the efforts of school and district staff are paying off in modest ways. Ettson was particularly proud to highlight a class of first-graders that posted a 98.6% average daily attendance last week. Second-graders were at 95% overall, and the whole school's average daily attendance over the last two weeks was 93%.

Chronic absenteeism is "still a struggle," Ettson said, but shows promise. Thirty-four percent of students were chronically absent last week, down from 36% the previous week.

"It's important in all schools, but especially in elementary ... really engaging with those families, building those positive relationships on trust and transparency," Ettson said.

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LOTTERY

Sunday, Feb. 13

PLAY3 DAY

3 2 5 WB: 7

PLAY4 DAY

8 6 6 6 WB: 4

The late numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

SATURDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

7 0 4 WB: 2

PLAY4 NIGHT

0 5 5 3 WB: 4

CASH 5

2 4 15 22 29

LUCKY FOR LIFE

13 25 27 39 45 LB: 16

POWERBALL

8 10 21 41 62 PB: 7 PP: 3

Tuesday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1 million

Tuesday's est. Mega Millions jackpot:

\$53 million

Wednesday's est. Powerball jackpot:

\$183 million

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Healthy Volunteers Needed for Brain Wave (EEG) Study

The Anxiety Disorders Center at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital is conducting a study investigating brain and stress responses in healthy volunteers with no current or past psychiatric illness.

Participants are compensated \$50 for their time. Studies are open to adults aged 18 to 65 years old that meet study criteria.

Studies take place on site at the Institute of Living in Hartford, CT during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 9-5).

Hartford HealthCare
Institute of Living

For more information, please call 860-545-7391 or e-mail ADC.research@hhchealth.org



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TRIBUNE
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FROM PAGE ONE

Pier

from Page 1

Rhode Island and New York. For New London Mayor Michael Passero, the State Pier project represents “the first real opportunity for this harbor and that pier to be successful,” promising a slew of new jobs and economic stability for New London’s next generation of residents.

But over the past few years, delays, rising costs and claims of impropriety at the Connecticut Port Authority have tarnished the project’s shine.

In 2019, Diamantis was designated as the Lamont administration’s “point person” for the project, heading a team composed of OPM and Department of Administrative Services employees that “oversaw the procurement and construction activities and awarding of contracts,” David Kooris, chairman of the Connecticut Port Authority — a quasi-public agency that oversees the state’s ports — said in a statement.

“The thinking at the time was, he’s probably the most experienced in construction management in the administration, so adding the pier duties to his other duties seemed to make sense,” state Sen. Paul Formica, an East Lyme Republican, said of Diamantis. “But I guess there’s been some question as to how he conducted business.”

During a February 2020 press conference in which Lamont announced a final agreement on the harbor development plan, he painted a vision of a “a world-class port for the next hundred years” in New London. Referencing Diamantis, he said, “Now Kosta’s got to deliver the goods.”

Diamantis assured the crowd that the project would be on time and on budget.

“I’m very familiar with this particular project,” he said. “It’s a \$157 million dollar project. There are no overruns in this project.”

But the project estimates continued to grow, rising from an initial estimate of \$93 million to \$235.5 million. Meanwhile, delays in obtaining required permits pushed the project deadlines further back.

“We were all very concerned about what was going on because we felt the oversight was not there and the costs were exploding,” state Sen. Cathy Osten, a Sprague Demo-



The New London State Pier is being improved to accommodate wind turbine generator staging and assembly. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

crat, said of the project. “It seemed like every six months there was an increase in cost.”

Other issues abounded. At the start of the redevelopment project, Passero said that he initially felt “betrayed” by agreements between the Port Authority and other companies over the State Pier, which left New London in the dark.

“That was at the height of when the Port Authority had been operating in secret,” he said. “A lot of the trouble they’re in now stems from the actions taken then. The city was one of the victims.”

Eventually, though, Passero secured a host community agreement with Ørsted and Eversource, in which the city will receive \$750,000 per year over a seven-year period.

As far as the federal investigation into Diamantis, Passero said he

does not expect it to stall the project, saying, “Nobody really knows what they’re fishing for.”

Kooris said that the Connecticut Port Authority had not been contacted by, or received any requests for documents from, the U.S. Attorney’s Office investigating Diamantis.

Yet the Connecticut Port Authority has also been under increased scrutiny recently, following a report released from the State Contracting Standards Board alleging that the Port Authority did not have the authority to enter into a public-private partnership for the pier redevelopment and has “no accountability or transparency measures in place” for its procurement policy.

“We’re extremely disappointed in questionable dealings with the Connecticut Port Authority and possibly some school projects,”

state Rep. Anthony Nolan, a New London Democrat, said, referencing school projects that Diamantis was involved in overseeing.

Legislators representing the region said last week that as the State Pier project develops, they are keeping a close eye on the Connecticut Port Authority, in light of past issues.

“I am a proponent of offshore wind,” Formica said. “I am an opponent of the shenanigans going on at the Port Authority.”

Following the release of the report from the State Contracting Standards Board, state Sen. Heather Somers, a Groton Republican, blasted the Port Authority, questioning “why a quasi-public entity cannot follow its own procedures” and noting that the organization has had longstanding issues with transparency.

“This is more than just not

following simple procedures,” she said in a statement. “This is about a few individuals entrusted with millions of taxpayers’ money, making crucial decisions which have long-term impact on our region and entire state.”

Proponents of the project say that the redevelopment of State Pier still holds great potential to bolster the Connecticut shoreline, positioning it to be at the forefront of renewable energy ventures in the Northeast. The only question is whether that vision can be executed.

“None of us are concerned about the mission of the project; we believe in wind energy,” Osten said. “We want to make sure it’s done right because it will impact a whole region.”

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Protest

from Page 1

But the bridge remained closed Sunday as a snowstorm hit the area, and Windsor Police Chief Pamela Mizuno didn’t offer a timetable for its reopening.

“There are steps we need to take in order to reopen the roadways so that we don’t encounter the same issue,” she said at a news conference. “We need to ensure we are able to maintain the traffic flow.”

Only a few protesters had remained after police Saturday persuaded demonstrators to move the pickup trucks and cars they had used to block a crossing that sees 25% of all trade between the two countries.

U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration Sunday acknowledged the seemingly peaceful resolution to the demonstration, which it said had “widespread damaging impacts” on the “lives and livelihoods of people” on both sides of the border.

“We stand ready to support our Canadian partners wherever useful in order to ensure the restoration of the normal free flow of commerce can resume,” Homeland Security Advisor Dr. Liz Sherwood-Randall said in a statement.

In Ottawa, Mayor Jim Watson said Sunday the city struck a deal with protesters who have jammed downtown streets for more than two weeks that will see them move out of residential areas in the next 24 hours.

Watson said he agreed to meet with demonstrators if they confine their protest to an area around



A fed-up resident makes his sentiment known to protesters Sunday in Ottawa. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parliament Hill and move their trucks and other vehicles out of residential neighborhoods by noon Monday. A response from protest organizers suggested they would comply.

Watson added in his letter to protesters that residents are “exhausted? and “on edge” due to the demonstrations and warns that some businesses are teetering

on the brink of permanent closure because of the disruptions.

The ranks of protesters had swelled to what police said were 4,000 demonstrators by Saturday, and a counterprotest of frustrated Ottawa residents attempting to block the convoy of trucks from entering the downtown emerged Sunday.

Clayton Goodwin, a 45-year-old

military veteran who was among the counterprotesters, said it was time for residents to stand up against the protesters.

“I’m horrified that other veterans would be down there co-opting my flag, co-opting my service,” he said. “It’s a grift. The city was free. We’re 92% vaccinated. We’re ready to support our businesses.”

Colleen Sinclair, another coun-

terprotester, said the demonstrators have had enough time to have their discontent heard and need to move on — with police force, if it comes down to it.

“They’re occupiers. People are scared to go to work, too scared to leave their homes,” she said. “This is not how you get your voice heard. This is domestic terrorism and we want you out of our city. Go home.”

The city has seen similar expansions of the protest on past weekends, and loud music played as people milled about downtown where anti-vaccine demonstrators have been encamped since late January, to the frustration of local residents.

“It just feels like I’m living in a different country, like I’m in the States,” said Shannon Thomas, a 32-year-old teacher. “It just makes me really sad to see all these people waving Canadian flags and acting like patriots when it’s really the most sad and embarrassing thing I’ve ever seen.”

Trudeau has rejected calls to use the military, but had said that “all options are on the table” to end the protests. Trudeau has called the protesters a “fringe” of Canadian society. Both federal and provincial politicians have said they can’t order police what to do.

On Friday, a judge ordered an end to the blockade at the crossing in Windsor and Ontario Premier Doug Ford declared a state of emergency allowing for fines and up to one year in jail for anyone illegally blocking roads, bridges, walkways and other infrastructure.

Partial closures at the bridge started Feb. 7.

Brewers

from Page 1

“People hear bombshell and they think of Marilyn Monroe. We think of bombshell as a strong woman,” Braddock said. “You can be a woman and feminine but also like beer and do anything a man can do.”

Sexist assumptions

The women all have stories about encounters with customers at their beermaking businesses.

“When we first opened, people would say to me, ‘Oh, you must be the brewer’s wife,’” said Braddock, who founded the brewery in 2016 with her husband, Benjamin Braddock. “Never has anyone assumed I am the owner. People are taken aback when they find out.”

Braddock does not brew Hog River’s beer. But Wilson brews

at Hop Culture. “When people find out I am the brewer, they say, ‘You made this beer? You made this beer?’ How do you drink it?” she said. “How do you drink it? I assume it goes down the hatch. ... People don’t know what to make of me.”

Bowens-Mercado has the same issue as Wilson. She said customers often go first to her husband to ask him questions about the beer. “He tells them, you have to go to my wife,” said Bowens-Mercado, who founded her brewery in 2018. “We laugh at the end of the day, because it allows me to open conversations about why people think that way.”

Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart University has the first brewing program in a Connecticut college. The \$15,000 scholarship is raised jointly, \$7,500 by Pink Boots and \$7,500

by Back East Brewing of Bloomfield.

The scholarship covers the entire curriculum: brewing theory, ingredient science and recipe design, beer styles, sensory analysis, brewery operations, sanitation and safety, quality control and brewing law.

Abby Bibens, tap room manager at Hop Culture, is co-leader of Connecticut’s chapter of the Pink Boots Society, which encourages women to enter the brewing industry.

“It’s kind of hard to get into the brewing game. Women are not always taken seriously. People think we don’t have the insights into brew techniques and chemistry,” Bibens said. “There’s still a stigma, this feeling that women should be in the front of the house.”

In most breweries, the front of house is where the women are. According to a survey conducted

by the Brewers Association, a trade group for craft breweries, women represent 37% of brewery employees nationwide. But women make up only about 7.5% of employees nationwide doing the actual brewing.

In addition, 88% of brewery owners are white. Just 1% are Black. So Bowens-Mercado is even more of a rarity. “Women across the board are a low number, but women of color is about one-half of 1%,” she said. “People don’t think Black folks make beer, even moreso a woman.”

Bowens-Mercado and Wilson taught themselves to brew before opening breweries. They look forward to the graduates who will emerge from the Sacred Heart program. “You can never know too much about brewing. This program will facilitate the next brewers in the country,” Bowens-Mercado said. “It would be a great thing if the graduates

came to work for Rhythm.”

The EmpowHERment Bombshell IPA Collaboration Can Release is March 5 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Hog River Brewing, 1429 Park Road in Hartford. The event will feature music by The New Mosaic, led by Erica T. Bryant, and vendors from women-owned businesses including Tayamation, Cottage Potter, Warm Jungle Vintage, Florapotherie, Rachel Antonia Designs, The Ocean Alchemist, Kat Stephen Jewelry, Charlies Treat Truck, The 8th Element, JTM cupcakes, Jag Ink, Amazing Ackee and Solden CT. Details can be found on Facebook @hopculturefarms, @HogRiverBrewingCompany and @rhythm-brewingco and on Instagram at @rhythmbrewingco, @hogriverbrewing and @hopculturefarm-sandbrewco.

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Ukraine playing down US warnings

More than 130,000 Russian troops said to be near borders

By Ellen Knickmeyer, Jim Heintz and Aamer Madhani
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some airlines canceled flights to the Ukrainian capital and troops there unloaded fresh shipments of weapons from NATO members Sunday, as its president sought to project confidence in the face of U.S. warnings of possible invasion within days by a growing number of Russian forces.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke to President Joe Biden for about an hour, insisting that Ukrainians had the country under “safe and reliable protection” against feared attack by a far stronger Russian military, aides said afterward.

The White House said both agreed to keep pushing both deterrence and diplomacy to try to stave off a feared Russian military offensive.

The Biden administration has become increasingly outspoken about its concerns that Russia will stage an incident in the coming days that would create a false pretext for an invasion of Ukraine.

U.S. and European intelligence findings in recent days have sparked worries that Russia may try to target a scheduled Ukrainian military exercise scheduled for Tuesday in eastern Ukraine to launch such a “false-flag operation,” according to two people familiar with the matter. They spoke on condition of anonymity



Valentyna Konstantynovska, 79, undergoes basic combat training for civilians Sunday in Mariupol, Ukraine. VADIM GHIRDA/AP

ity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about it.

U.S. intelligence officials believe targeting the military exercise is just one of multiple options that Russia has weighed as a possibility for a false-flag operation. The White House has underscored that they do not know with certainty if President Vladimir Putin has made a final determination to launch an invasion.

Moscow’s forces are massing on Ukraine’s north, east and south in what the Kremlin insists are military exercises.

A U.S. official updated the Biden administration’s estimate for how many Russian

forces are now staged near Ukraine’s borders to more than 130,000, up from the more than 100,000 the U.S. has cited publicly in previous weeks. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the administration’s conclusions.

Zelenskyy has repeatedly played down the U.S. warnings, questioning the increasingly strident statements from U.S. officials in recent days that Russia could be planning to invade as soon as midweek.

“We understand all the risks, we understand that there are risks,” he said in a broadcast Saturday. “If you, or anyone else, has additional information regard-

ing a 100% Russian invasion starting on the 16th, please forward that information to us.”

But while Zelenskyy has urged against panic that he fears could undermine Ukraine’s economy, he and his civilian and military leaders also are preparing defenses, soliciting and receiving a flow of arms from the U.S. and other NATO members.

A military cargo aircraft carrying U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and ammunition from NATO member Lithuania landed Sunday, bolstering the country’s defenses against any attack by air.

Zelenskyy wore mili-

tary olive drab at a drill with tanks and helicopters near Ukraine’s border with Russian-annexed Crimea this weekend.

The U.S. largely has not made public the evidence it says is underlying its most specific warnings on possible Russian planning or timing.

“We’re not going to give Russia the opportunity to conduct a surprise here, to spring something on Ukraine or the world,” Jake Sullivan, the U.S. national security adviser, told CNN on Sunday, about the U.S. warnings. “We are going to make sure that we are laying out for the world what we see as transparently and

plainly as we possibly can.”

The Russians have deployed missile, air, naval and special operations forces, as well as supplies to sustain an invasion. Last week, Russia moved six amphibious assault ships into the Black Sea.

Putin denies any intention of attacking Ukraine.

Russia is demanding that the West keep former Soviet countries out of NATO. It also wants NATO to refrain from deploying weapons near its border and to roll back alliance forces from Eastern Europe — demands rejected by the West.

Biden and Putin spoke for more than an hour Saturday, but the White House offered no suggestion that the call diminished the threat of an imminent war in Europe.

Reflecting the West’s concerns, Dutch airline KLM has canceled flights to Ukraine, the company said. The Ukrainian charter airline SkyUp said Sunday its flight from Madeira, Portugal, to Kyiv was diverted to Chisinau, Moldova.

And Ukraine’s air traffic safety agency Ukraerorukh issued a statement declaring the airspace over the Black Sea to be a “zone of potential danger” and recommended that planes avoid flying over the sea from Monday through Saturday.

The Putin-Biden conversation, following a call between Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron, came at a critical moment for what has become the biggest security crisis between Russia and the West since the Cold War.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will fly to Kyiv on Monday to meet with Zelenskyy and Moscow on Tuesday to meet with Putin.

Fake virus testing sites pop up in several states

Operators gathering patients’ personal info, officials warn

By Ada Petriczko
The New York Times

With the surge in cases fueled by the omicron variant came a surge in the demand for coronavirus tests — and right behind it, a surge in accusations of fraud and warnings to American consumers about dodgy coronavirus testing locations.

“Throughout California, fake testing sites are sprouting up to exploit families and individuals seeking COVID tests,” Rob Bonta, attorney general of California, said in a statement last month.

Attorneys general in California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Washington state have all shut down or sued testing sites in recent weeks.

One thing that illegitimate test-site operators may be after is patients’ personal information, like credit card numbers, driver’s license data and Social Security numbers, which can be used afterward for identity theft or unsolicited online purchases. They may try to

bill governments for tests they claim were provided to uninsured people or charge consumers fees for tests that were supposed to be provided free, and then deliver made-up results or none at all.

“It is important for people to know that these sites are not licensed or regulated by a government agency, and they should ask questions before visiting a pop-up testing location — or try to utilize a state-sponsored testing site,” Kwame Raoul, attorney general of Illinois, advised in a statement in January.

The Federal Trade Commission’s website offers guidelines on how to avoid being fooled by fake testing sites. The commission recommends that people who are seeking a test get a referral from a health care provider instead of trusting any site they happen to come across. Another tip is to check whether a site is listed on the local health department’s website. Consumers can also ask their local police department or sheriff’s office, which should know about all legitimate, locally approved testing sites.

The Department of Health and Human Services’ inspector general recommends being wary of any

testing site that requests financial or medical information to perform a free test.

One prominent case of fraud accusations involves a Chicago-based company, Center for COVID Control, which opened some 300 pop-up locations across the country and collected up to 10,000 samples a day. The FBI and other federal agencies, including the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, are investigating the company and its partner lab, Doctors Clinical Laboratory, after complaints from former employees and members of the public.

The company and the lab are also being investigated by attorneys general in a number of states, including Arizona, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington.

Raoul, the attorney general of Illinois, wrote in a statement that complaints about the company had ranged “from testing results being delayed or not received at all, to results being provided to individuals who were never administered a test, to tests being stored improperly, and staff incorrectly using PPE and face masks.”

Center for COVID Control announced in late



David Dirkhsing, a volunteer health care worker, checks in motorists Dec. 30 at a pop-up testing site in Columbus, Ohio. Not all pop-up test sites are as legitimate as this one. JAY LAPRETE/AP

January that all of its testing sites would be closed until further notice. The company said in a statement that had been posted on its website that it would provide additional training to its employees on sample collection, customer service and compliance with regulatory guidelines. The statement did not directly address the accusations against the company, and the website is no longer functioning.

Center for COVID Control representatives did not respond to repeated messages seeking comment

for this article.

Attorney General Keith Ellison of Minnesota filed suit against the company and the lab Jan. 19, accusing them of “deceiving consumers.” In a news release, Ellison cited accusations from former employees that test samples were stored improperly and neglected for days, and that managers instructed them to falsify sample receipt dates and to lie to patients about results, saying they were negative or inconclusive when the samples had actually never been tested.

A lawsuit filed by the attorney general of Washington state, Bob Ferguson, accuses the company of fraudulently billing the federal government more than \$124 million for testing supposedly uninsured patients, many of whom had health insurance.

“Center for COVID Control contributed to the spread of COVID-19 when it provided false negative results,” Ferguson said in a statement. “These sham testing centers threatened the health and safety of our communities.”



Sen. Ben Ray Lujan suffered a stroke in January. “I’m back on the road to recovery,” he says. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP 2018

Sen. Lujan plans return to vote on court pick

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, who is recovering from a stroke in January, says he plans to be back at work in “just a few short weeks” to vote on President Joe Biden’s forthcoming Supreme Court nominee.

In a video released Sunday by his office, the New Mexico senator said he is at the University of New Mexico Hospital after surgery to relieve pressure

on his brain and soon will go to an inpatient rehabilitation facility for “a few more weeks.”

“I’m doing well. I’m strong. I’m back on the road to recovery, and I’m going to make a full recovery,” Lujan, 49, said in the video, which showed him seated next to two of his doctors. “I’m going to walk out of here, I’m going to beat this, and I’m going to be stronger once I come out.”

“Now I’m proud to report, then I’ll be back on the floor

of the United States Senate in just a few short weeks to vote on important legislation and to consider a Supreme Court nominee,” he added.

According to his office, the Lujan began experiencing dizziness and fatigue Jan. 27 and checked himself into a hospital in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Lujan was transferred to the hospital in Albuquerque for further evaluation and treatment.

His absence from the Senate came as Biden considers a nominee to

replace the retiring Justice Stephen Breyer.

Biden has said he wants to announce a pick by the end of February.

In a 50-50 Senate, Lujan’s vote would be critical if Democrats wanted to confirm Biden’s nominee without the help of Republicans.

“Rest assured, New Mexicans can know they will have a voice and a vote during this process,” Lujan said in the video. “That has never changed.”

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Ex-Afghan president: Biden order on frozen funds is ‘an atrocity’

From news services

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan’s former president Sunday called a White House order to unfreeze \$3.5 billion in Afghan assets held in the U.S. for families of 9/11 victims an atrocity against the Afghan people. Former President Hamid Karzai sought the help of Americans, particularly the families of the thousands killed in the 9/11 attacks, to press President Joe Biden to rescind last week’s order. He called it “unjust and unfair,” saying Afghans have also been victims of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Bin Laden was brought to Afghanistan by Afghan warlords after being expelled from Sudan in 1996. Those same warlords would later ally with the U.S.-led coalition to oust the Taliban in 2001.

However, it was Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar who refused to hand over bin Laden to the U.S. “The people of Afghanistan share the pain of the American people, share the pain of the families and loved ones of those who died, who lost their lives in the tragedy of September 11,” Karzai said. “We commiserate with them (but) Afghan people are as much victims as those families who lost their lives. ... Withholding money or seizing money from the people of Afghanistan in their name is unjust and unfair and an atrocity against Afghan people.”

President Biden’s order signed Friday freed \$7 billion in Afghan assets currently held in the United States, to be divided between 9/11 victims and humanitarian aid to Afghans.

Sept. 11 victims and their families have legal claims against the Taliban and the \$7 billion in the U.S. banking system.

The \$3.5 billion was set aside for a U.S. court to decide whether it can be used to settle claims by families of 9/11 victims. U.S. courts would also have to sign off before the release of humanitarian assistance money. We “ask the U.S. courts to do the opposite, to return the Afghan money back to the Afghan people,” said Karzai. “This money does not belong to any government ... this money belongs to the people of Afghanistan.” Biden’s order calls for the \$3.5 billion allocated to humanitarian aid to be put into a trust and be used to assist Afghans, bypassing their Taliban rulers.

US gas prices spike: The average U.S. price of a gallon of regular-grade gasoline spiked 15 cents over the past three weeks to \$3.55 per gallon.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the price jump came after a rise in crude oil costs.

Nationwide, the highest average price for regular-grade gas is in the San Francisco Bay Area, at \$4.75 per gallon.

The lowest average is in Houston, at \$3.05 per gallon.

According to the survey, the average price of diesel is \$3.91 a gallon, up 21 cents over three weeks.

Pearl Harbor sailor ID’d: A U.S. Navy sailor killed in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor has been identified after 80 years, military officials said.

The Department of Defense announced Thursday that the remains of Navy StoreKeeper 1st Class Harry E. Walker were identified last spring, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

Walker, a San Diego



Getting hitched: As Valentine’s Day looms, a couple kisses during a mass wedding Sunday in Quezon City, Philippines. The Asian nation has eased restrictions this month as the daily COVID-19 case count drops. The Philippines have recorded over 3.6 million infections and more than 54,000 deaths from the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University. **EZRA ACAYAN/GETTY**

native, will be buried in California next month, the newspaper said Sunday.

The 36-year-old was assigned to the USS Okla-homa when he died in the Dec. 7, 1941, aerial attack on the U.S. naval base in Hawaii.

More than 400 of the battleship’s crew were killed.

In total, more than 2,300 U.S. troops stationed at Pearl Harbor lost their lives during the attack.

Hong Kong outbreak: Hong Kong said Sunday that it would begin prioritizing hospital isolation space for children, older people and other serious cases as a wave of coronavirus infections has swamped the city.

Hong Kong had previously required that all COVID-19 patients receive hospital treatment. The city has now begun telling those with mild cases to remain at home, Larry Lee, the head of integrated clinical services for the public Hospital Authority, said Sunday.

Lee said he did not know how many infected people might be stuck at home, but he estimated there were “thousands.”

For long stretches last year, Hong Kong saw only single-digit daily increases in new cases.

On Sunday, health officials announced 1,347 confirmed new cases, and more than 2,000 preliminarily positive cases.

Greece protest: Greek farmers, taking a page from the Canadian truckers’ protest handbook, say they are determined to shut down all the country’s major highways to protest rising energy costs.

At a gathering Sunday near Larissa in central Greece, they said they would call for a meeting with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

Greek farmers are demanding subsidies to reduce their fuel costs and an end to the electricity price adjustment cost,

which reflects changes in the price of oil and natural gas imports.

Greece has among the highest fuel taxes in the 27-nation European Union.

Greek farmers have been blocking a major road connecting Larissa to the city of Kozani to the north-west for about 10 days.

Pakistan stoning death: A mob stoned to death a 41-year-old man for allegedly desecrating the Quran in a remote village in eastern Pakistan, police said Sunday.

The custodian of a local mosque said he saw the man burning the Muslim holybook inside the mosque Saturday evening and told others before informing police, according to police spokesman Chaudhry Imran.

Imran said police rushed to the scene, where a man was found surrounded by an angry crowd.

Officer Mohammad Iqbal and two subordinates tried

to take custody of the man but the group began throwing stones at them, seriously injuring Iqbal and slightly injuring the other officers.

Munawar Gujjar, chief of Tulamba police station, said he rushed reinforcements to the mosque but they did not arrive before the mob had stoned to death the man and hung his body from a tree.

Indonesia drownings: Eleven people drowned after being dragged by big waves on a beach in Indonesia’s East Java province despite warnings to avoid the sea, officials said Sunday.

They were part of a group of 24 people from several villages who took part in a local ritual that involves swimming in the ocean Saturday night, officials from the Surabaya Search and Rescue Agency said.

A 2-year-old girl was among the survivors at the Payangan beach in Jember district, the officials said.

The last victim was recovered Sunday afternoon.

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WORLD & NATION

A love may expire, but logins don't

Some exes still share custody of passwords to streaming services

By Leanne Italie
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Emily Taffel didn't pull the password plug when she divorced her first husband, and she didn't cut off the boyfriend who followed. Now remarried with four stepchildren, she continues as a model of civility when it comes to exes and logins. Taffel, 41, of Coral Springs, Florida, and her first husband didn't have kids, much money or own a house when they divorced. What they did have were subscriptions to Netflix and Hulu. "We each paid for one of them and share. That was literally our divorce agreement," Taffel said. "It was written right in there. We're still doing it."

When boyfriend Sam came along but the romance ended three years later, they maintained close ties and joint custody of additional services, sharing logins and the cost to this day among themselves and Taffel's ex-husband.

Taffel and her current husband have added more and shared down the line over a decade after her first marriage ended. "I know it seems crazy," she said. "The ex-boyfriend and the ex-husband aren't friends, but through me everybody is very amicable." In this era of cybersecurity concerns and calls for multifactor lockdown of all things digital, that approach points to a thorny issue when love goes wrong: What to do about the logins?

Nearly 8 in 10 Americans who are in a relationship share passwords across nearly every digital platform, ranging from social media to email and cell-phone to mobile wallets, said Harold Li, vice president of the encryption



Ryan Cohen, from left, his wife, Emily Taffel, and Taffel's former boyfriend Sam Rubman on Feb. 3, in Coral Springs, Florida. In the era of intense cybersecurity, the three share several logins to streaming services. "I know it seems crazy," she says. **RYAN COHEN**

service ExpressVPN.

"In the digital era, sharing passwords is a sign of trust and affection akin to the gift of a letterman jacket or an exchange of school locker combinations," he said. "However, while it may seem like a romantic gesture at the moment, it poses serious risks to your personal privacy, which even the closest of relationships need."

And when relationships end, whether romantic or of the friendship variety, he recommends a thorough "digital divorce."

Sisi Cronin, 33, of Napa, California, is still logged in to her college boyfriend's Netflix account, with her own profile. While they don't live near each other, they remain friendly after going their separate ways when she was 23.

"One time about three years ago he sent me a kind of funny message saying, hey, Netflix has decided to limit how many people can be on, would you mind getting your own? And I just wrote back saying I'd rather not. We haven't talked about it since," she said. "When you've got all these different subscription platforms it's ideal to not be paying for all of them yourself, right?"

Nick Leighton of the etiquette podcast "Were You Raised by Wolves" equates the changing of shared passwords after a breakup to returning the sweater left behind by the ex.

"Be mindful of the fact that when a person discovers their login no longer works, it'll be a clear reminder that the relationship is indeed over, which may cause

hurt feelings," he said. "In a relationship, asking someone for their password can make some people uncomfortable, so it's often better to wait until they volunteer to share rather than putting them on the spot. It should also be noted that sharing passwords might possibly violate the terms of service."

Things don't always go swimmingly when logins aren't cut off post-breakup.

"Change the password. In the age of perpetual watch histories being widely available, nobody wants to know that their ex just watched 'The Notebook' on Netflix. It stirs up all sorts of emotions," said John Capo, an assistant professor of communications at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

"Were they thinking about me when they watched it?

Who did they watch it with? Why were they awake at midnight, anyway? Remember when we used to watch 'The Notebook?'"

Brian Penny, 40, of Tucson, Arizona, doesn't have the heart to leave an ex out in the cold on his HBO Max and Hulu accounts.

"She's struggling with work and it doesn't cost me anything, but it does show her name because she added herself as a profile," he said. "I do wonder what the next girlfriend will think about seeing another woman's name in my account. I've already reasoned I would say it's a cousin or friend."

Hari Ravichandran, founder and CEO of the digital safety provider Aura, noted the prevalence of password sharing among some, but warned against it.

"It's no secret that password-sharing is a way for consumers to get around the cost of paying for multiple services," he said in a statement. "What consumers aren't considering is that these behaviors make them vulnerable to digital crime when people outside your household — even ones you trust — have your passwords on their devices."

Researchers have found a variety of reasons people maintain streaming ties after a breakup — convenience, finances and post-breakup friendships among them.

A downside: When a vindictive ex deliberately wreaks havoc with algorithms to mess up ads and suggested viewing, or creates a profile to rile up a current love interest. One sharer said the parents of an ex stayed logged into one of his sites for two years after they broke up and sent him a gift card out of the blue as thanks.

Chandler Sterling in Los Angeles shows up as a generic "guest" profile on the Netflix and Hulu accounts of a former long-term girlfriend. He also uses his parents' cable TV subscription with his Apple TV for access to pretty much anything, including sports.

"Yes, I'm 34, and yes, I make over six figures at my job, but I won't pay for something if I don't have to," he said. "My ex has never directly confronted me about the guest profile on Hulu. On Netflix, she changed the guest account's profile picture to the guy from the show 'Lucifer,' so I think she's sending me a message about how she feels. ... I have zero guilt for all this cloak and dagger mooching."

Penny said he wasn't sure if or when he would remove his ex.

"Our relationship didn't end well at all," he said. "I think a part of me leaves it alone so she leaves me alone. The peace of mind is worth it."



Secretary of State Antony Blinken looks toward Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi at a joint news conference Saturday in Honolulu. **KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS POOL PHOTO**

In Hawaii, Blinken signals a unified message on NKorea

By Edward Wong
The New York Times

HONOLULU — Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan presented a unified front against North Korea's recent missile tests, which the country has been conducting at its fastest rate in years.

"I think it is clear to all of us that the DPRK is in a phase of provocation," Blinken said at a weekend news conference in Honolulu after meetings. He said the three countries would "continue to hold the DPRK accountable," using an abbreviation for North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. But all three officials said their governments were open to talks with the North, even as they condemned the recent tests. "We reaffirmed that diplomacy and dialogue with North Korea is more important than ever," South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong said.

Blinken's appearance Saturday with Chung and Yoshimasa Hayashi, the

foreign minister of Japan, was meant to be a signal moment in the Biden administration's efforts to defuse a potential crisis with North Korea.

The governments of South Korea and Japan have recently had disagreements over how to deal with the North. Seoul wants to offer more diplomatic enticements to Pyongyang, while Tokyo advocates a harder line, veering more toward harsher U.N. sanctions.

North Korea has conducted seven missile tests this year, more than in all of 2021.

Officials with the U.S. and its allies were alarmed by the North's Jan. 30 test, which they said was of an intermediate-range ballistic missile, the most powerful missile the country had tested since 2017. It raised the specter of a return to the tensions of former President Donald Trump's first year in office, when the North tested long-range missiles and a nuclear device, and Trump threatened to unleash "fire and fury" in return.

Kim Jong Un, the North's leader, recently suggested that he might

end a self-imposed moratorium on testing such powerful weapons. Last month, North Korean state media said Kim had ordered officials to "promptly examine the issue of restarting all activities that had been temporarily suspended," presumably a reference to the moratorium.

Some analysts said Kim and other officials might already have decided on a course of action, but that their intentions remained a mystery.

"We have data points. We have a bunch of bones, but we don't know how the skeleton fits together or which way it'll go," said Robert Carlin, a former U.S. intelligence analyst on North Korea.

Chung underscored President Moon Jae-in of South Korea's belief in the importance of diplomatic outreach to the North. Moon, who helped to bring about the historic talks between Kim and Trump, hopes to make reconciliation between the Koreas a centerpiece of his legacy.

South Korea has a presidential election in March, and Moon's successor could take a different approach.

Interim chief in Minneapolis grapples with Locke shooting

By Kathleen Foody
Associated Press

Interim Minneapolis police Chief Amelia Huffman was taking questions about the fatal shooting of 22-year-old Amir Locke when a reporter challenged the police account that Locke's gun was pointed toward officers serving a search warrant. Huffman's attempt to explain was too much for one local activist.

"This is what I would call the anatomy of a cover-up," Nekima Levy Armstrong said, confronting Huffman and Mayor Jacob Frey. "Amelia, you're saying you want to be the chief. Then act like it."

The exchange underscores the fraught situation that Huffman — named interim chief last month and a candidate to take the job permanently — faces as she attempts to steer a department in tatters since George Floyd's killing in 2020.

Huffman, who joined the department in 1994, was tapped by Frey to replace the retiring Medaria Arradondo. Huffman investigated financial crimes, crimes against children and Internal Affairs cases, served as a department spokeswoman and commanded units.

A police spokesman didn't respond to a request to interview Huffman.

In a 2019 interview with a Minneapolis weekly, Huffman described studying constitutional law at Smith College.

"Minneapolis was looking to hire people who had backgrounds in things other than law enforcement," Huffman told the paper.

While homicide chief in 2007, Huffman, who is white, clashed with a high-profile Black investigator over her public suggestion that a man's murder was connected to a drug purchase — upsetting the victim's family and the investigator.



Amelia Huffman has been interim police chief of Minneapolis since last month. **GLEN STUBBE/STAR TRIBUNE 2021**

Then-Chief Tim Dolan backed Huffman and transferred the sergeant to another department. Dolan said in an interview that the investigating sergeant undermined Huffman by going public with his opposition to her comments and had been warned before.

"But you have to decide whether you back the commander or you back the sergeant," Dolan said. (Huffman) "is bright, fair and capable."

Arradondo, who is Black, had worked with Frey on policy changes aimed at overhauling the department after Floyd's death. He also came out publicly against a voter referendum in November to replace the department with a new public safety unit, which was defeated.

But soon after, Arradondo announced that he would retire.

Reaction to Huffman's interim appointment was largely muted. Much of the anger since Locke's death has focused on the department for executing a no-knock warrant — Locke's parents said body-camera video suggested Locke had been startled awake and then "executed" by officers — and for its initial account of events, including a news release that called Locke a "suspect" even though he wasn't named in the search

warrants.

For the activists, those actions fit the pattern of a department focused on protecting its own.

"She stepped into that role knowing that we are still grappling with the impacts of the murder of George Floyd," Levy Armstrong said.

When Huffman was made inspector of a precinct spanning southwest Minneapolis, the city was reeling from the 2017 fatal shooting of Justine Ruszczyk Damond by a police officer. In the 2019 interview on taking that new position, Huffman pledged that she and officers in the area would focus on being in the community.

"Healing that chasm is going to take time and work," she said.

Floyd's murder put the city's police force under a microscope again the following year. While many large protests in Minneapolis remained peaceful, some people looted and vandalized businesses in the Uptown neighborhood, within the precinct Huffman oversaw.

Jill Osiecki, executive director of the Uptown Association, credited Huffman for making one-on-one visits to each affected place.

"It was so impressive to see somebody rise to that occasion in such a difficult time," Osiecki said.

Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

OP-ED

We are better off after Biden’s first year

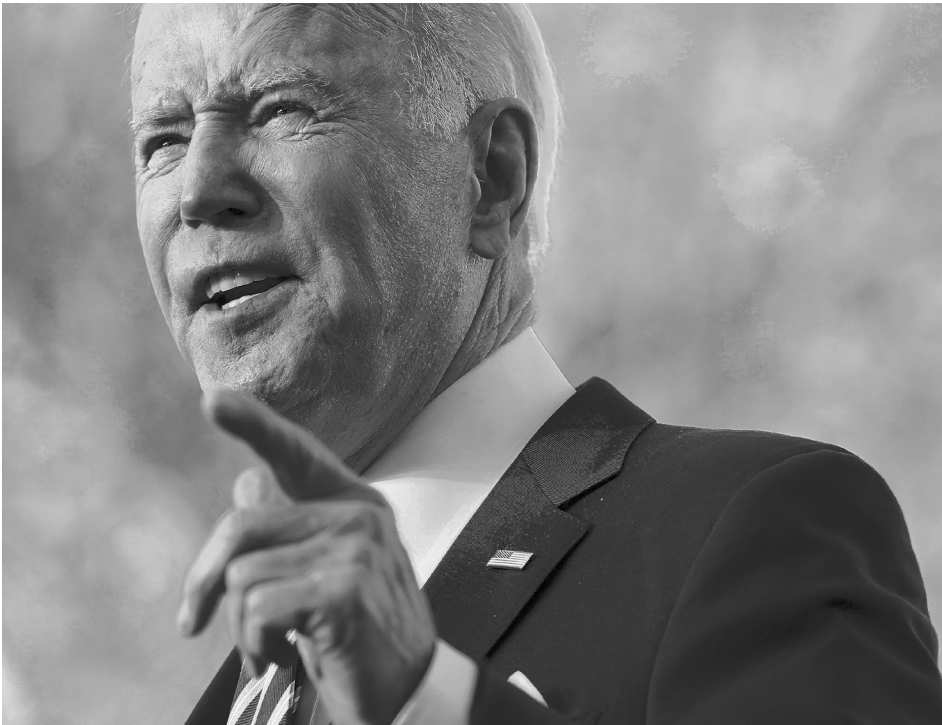
By Kevin Sullivan

The head of the state Republican party recently did his partisan worst in a Hartford Courant op-ed to catastrophize the Joe Biden presidency. That’s what blind partisans do. It’s all about the blame game, hoping folks might fire the incumbent without his opponents offering anything positive instead. It’s the same reason Bob “I’m Not the Guy Who Ran Four Years Ago” Stefanowski regularly pops up and pops off with his special brand of doom and distraction.

Sadly, what most Republican pols now share with the once and would-be future Republican czar, Donald Trump, is their utter disregard for the facts. Yes, as John Adams said, “Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”

So, after years of Republican extremism, denial and neglect, where are we, really, barely into President Biden’s first term? Above all, we again have a national leader who leads. President Biden practices democracy and common decency. He gets what the real lives of real people are really like. We have a president with a great heart who wants to build up America rather than tear us apart. That’s exactly why America elected Joe Biden to end the frightening clown show of Trump’s assault on democracy. That alone would be enough, but wait, there’s so much more.

Yes, the COVID-19 epidemic, exacerbated by Trump’s denial and indifference, continues to stress our nation in so many ways. Yet President Biden’s push for vaccination, prevention and financial relief have helped turn the corner by



President Joe Biden speaks at Atlanta University Center Consortium on Jan. 11. Just over a year into his term, the nation has been better off with Biden in office, writes former Connecticut Lt. Gov. Kevin Sullivan. **PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP**

any honest measure of progress. All this despite Republican efforts here and across the nation to play to the paranoid politics of anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers.

Are we better off economically? Unravelling long-neglected supply chain issues and getting people to fill all the available jobs is a challenge. But from Main Street to Wall Street, America’s economy is booming at the highest levels of economic growth and wages in addition to the lowest levels

of unemployment since well before the new millennium — all outpacing inflation. As to inflation, let’s not forget that Trump and the Republicans opposed efforts to tighten up interest rates and slow inflation — efforts now underway at last.

Now, here’s where the Republican party chair’s claims go from phony to being frighteningly absurd. He faults President Biden for not standing up to Putin. Really? For four years, Trump and his cronies

compromised American security, undermined NATO and played fast and loose with Russia’s dictator and his corrupt oligarchs. Does anyone seriously believe for even a moment that Trump and the Republicans would be staring down the Russian threat to a free Ukraine like President Biden is doing?

Finally, the state Republican party’s chair just can’t resist the usual wolf whistle: crime. There is zero evidence that major crime is increasing under President Biden. Yet there is more than enough evidence that Republican politicians across the nation have conspired to steal a democratic election, abet political violence and assault voting rights and human rights.

Yes, I too am a partisan, but that does not mean giving my own party a pass. Government depends on political cooperation and compromise. As a Democrat, I wish my party nationally would stop thinking too big and acting too small. I want us to focus more on mainstream solutions to grow our economy, educate our children, save our environment, strengthen the safety net for those in need, advance rights and opportunities for women and people of color, and protect democracy by standing up to tyranny and terror globally and right here at home. And I wish Congress would put the votes up on the board more often, even if only to show Americans who is on their side.

Politicians, like the Republican state chair, may be less than truthful, but facts don’t lie. Bottom line: As a nation and in Connecticut, we are honestly better off after Joe Biden’s first year as our president.

Kevin Sullivan is a former Lt. governor in Connecticut and leader of the state Senate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Too early for election advertising

TV stations are starting to run ads for candidates running in the fall election, and I hope that The Courant will not follow suit. The election won’t be until November and a lot can change between now and then — so why are we subjected to these so soon? I know my own political views and others with opposing views will get stressed when we hear opposing views as the election nears — but geez — we are still stressing about COVID-19 and now we have to stir up political views? Give us a break for a few months so that we can all chill out.

Peter Waleszczyk, Terryville

We must protect everyone from assisted suicide

George Will’s Jan. 24 column on assisted suicide in California seems to highlight anguish for the people tempted by it. I have a spoiler alert for Mr. Will and similar activists: No amount of restrictions or hurdles will tame the genie of state-enabled suicide. It only redistributes anguish to those people unable to protect themselves against abuse from penny-pinching hospital administrators, insurance companies, incompetent doctors and even well-intentioned (or not) friends and relatives. One week after assisted suicide became legal in her state, California resident and mother of four Stephanie Packer reportedly received a letter from her insurer offering assisted suicide for \$1.20, according to the Catholic Weekly. Connecticut’s own Cathy Ludlum, an advocate for people-with-disabilities, states that “no package of safeguards has ever or can ever be developed that will provide 100% protection from misdiagnosis, incorrect prognosis, coercion, or the devaluation of the lives of disabled people.” Let’s hope Connecticut legislators continue to listen to people like Cathy and protect everyone against assisted suicide.

Peter Wolfgang, Hartford

The writer is executive director of Family Institute of Connecticut

Courant continues to ignore important news

Once again, The Courant has shown a total lack of respect for police officers in this country by failing to cover, let alone even mention, the deaths of two New York police officers killed in January. During the last two years, police officers everywhere have been disrespected, spit at, attacked and killed and crickets from this liberal newspaper while our cities were burning in “peaceful protests.” The only outrage seems to be when it involves a politician or their family member.

I have to wonder what goes through the mind of Helen Bennett, executive editor, as she decides not to inform the readership of what’s happening in this country, the total failure of the current administration, the nightmare at the border, Americans left behind in Afghanistan, and so

much more. Countries around the world are laughing at the United States, but not a word in your paper. Instead of taking a whole page to pat yourself on the back touting Journalism Matters, you should try using a whole page that says: Ignorance is bliss.

Tracey Skinner, Berlin

Thankful for death-care professionals

According to the CDC, there were more than 446,000 deaths attributed to COVID-19 on U.S. death certificates in 2021. This has led to an extraordinary strain on the funeral service profession that provides for nearly 2.8 million funerals in a normal year. The challenge of caring for many more deaths was prodigious and intense.

The pandemic pressed our last responders, our death-care professionals, to the limits. We must communicate to these special people a big thank you for their services, the Connecticut funeral directors and their staffs for their long hours assisting the families left with spiritual and emotional needs through times of bereavement.

Peter Breen, South Lyme

If ‘journalism matters,’ where is it?

Is it not ironic that on an otherwise blank news page are the words “Journalism matters” [Page 12, Section 2, Jan 2]? The idiom “no news is good news” would be much more appropriate.

Marilyn Neri, West Hartford

Luckily, CT legislators stand up for voting rights

Motivated by the lie promulgated by Donald Trump that the election was stolen from him, Republican legislators in many states are making it difficult for minorities to vote and easy for legislatures to overturn legitimate election results. The House of Representatives has passed two bills that would prohibit discriminatory state voter-suppression legislation, legislatures from overturning election results, and also end political gerrymandering. This legislation is before the Senate, where it is being bogged down by senators who apparently think that states should be able to suppress votes, overturn election results and configure legislative districts for partisan advantage. All of this is done with the shibboleth of states’ rights that was used to justify slavery and Jim Crow laws.

Even worse, Republican U.S. senators aren’t even willing to let voting rights legislation be debated. They are prepared to invoke the filibuster rule that requires that at least 60 senators vote to allow debate on a bill. Fortunately for Connecticut citizens, our Congressional delegation is standing up for democracy and the rights guaranteed by our Constitution by supporting the voting rights bills.

Joseph J. Cirasuolo, Wallingford

OP-ED

Even by the standards of today, this campus episode is noteworthy

By George F. Will
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A sludge of ignorance and cowardice oozes so constantly through today’s campuses that institutions acquire immunity through recidivism: Progressivism’s totalitarian temptation is too commonplace to be newsworthy. Academia’s vindictive intolerance has become humdrum.

The University of Illinois at Chicago, however, is so repulsive that attention must be paid to Jason Kilborn’s ordeal. He is enduring, as the price of continuing as a tenured law professor, progressivism’s version of an ancient torment: the pillory. He has been sentenced to multiple debasements devised by UIC, which is wielding progressivism’s array of tools for mind-scrubbing and conformity-enforcing.

Kilborn’s troubles began in December 2020, when he used, in an exam concerning civil procedure, a hypothetical case about a Black female manager suing a former employer, charging that she had been fired because of her race and gender. She alleged that other managers had called her — this is how the slurs appeared in Kilborn’s hypothetical — a “n_____” and a “b_____.”

In his lawsuit seeking damages for violations of his constitutional rights, Kilborn says he had used this identical hypothetical for 10 years without occasioning comment, let alone campus convulsions. But it takes just a few pebbles to start an avalanche, and just a few flamboyantly brittle students to start an infection of indignation. So, Kilborn was summoned to an electronic meeting with the law school’s dean, who had been told he had “used a racial slur” on the exam. He sent a note to his class expressing regret if his hypothetical had distressed anyone.

Nevertheless, three weeks later Kilborn was summarily placed on “indefinite administrative leave,” his classes were canceled for the entire semester, and he was banned from campus. All this, because the head of UIC’s Office for Access and Equity had a conversation with a student, according to the lawsuit.

On Jan. 6, the Black Law Students Association invited people to report if they had ever been “affected by” Kilborn. The next day, about an hour into a four-hour remote electronic conversation with a member of the association, Kilborn was asked why the law dean had not shown him a student petition complaining about the expurgated racial and gendered slurs in the exam question. Kilborn said perhaps the dean thought the abusive things said about Kilborn in the petition might make him “become homicidal.” Within four days, the student was reporting that Kilborn had exclaimed that he “was feeling homicidal.”

So, the dean triggered UIC’s Violence Prevention Plan, which triggered a

Behavioral Threat Assessment Team that, without communicating with Kilborn, authorized the dean — who teaches law, mind you — to impose severe punishments without a shred of due process. Soon the Office for Access and Equity notified Kilborn that it was investigating allegations that he had “created a racially hostile environment,” particularly in his civil procedure course.

To the surprise of no one conversant with the operations of academia’s “equity” bureaucracies, the Office for Access and Equity notified Kilborn that he was guilty of “harassing conduct” because his exam question, and his response to criticisms of it, “interfered” with Black students’ “participation” in UIC. This was just another example of kangaroo court proceedings not uncommon at institutions of higher education that are administered by progressive apparatchiks too uneducated to understand the adjective “Kafkaesque.”

What makes UIC worth noticing, however, are the punishments it imposed. At first, it said that Kilborn’s sensitivity training would be mandated only if four semesters of his recorded classes indicated a harassing classroom environment. Despite exemplary performance reviews, he was declared “ineligible” for an announced, across-the-board 2% pay raise. Then UIC said he would have to undergo sensitivity training after all. An eight-week diversity instruction regimen would involve 20 hours of course work, five “self-reflection” papers, weekly 90-minute sessions with a diversity “trainer” and supplemental molding by the trainer.

Could those who concocted this sentence ever recognize their kinship with the moral purifiers of Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge? Or of Mao’s Cultural Revolution? Or the Stalinist interrogator Gletkin in Arthur Koestler’s 1940 novel “Darkness at Noon”? If so, would UIC’s unconscious emulators be discomfited by the resemblance? Unlikely.

Today, bureaucrats parasitic off academia’s scholarly mission outnumber actual scholars. These threat-discerners, diversity-planners, bias-detectors, sensitivity-promoters, sustainability-guarantors and other beneficiaries of today’s multibillion-dollar social justice industry are doing well during the nation’s supposed apocalypse.

So meticulous is UIC about Kilborn’s reeducation, it assigned him “supplemental” readings that explain the problems white people might face when they realize that white racism is everywhere. One assigned reading included this: “White people who support their colleagues of color may be called ‘n_____ lover.’” UIC’s prissy bullies, like fanatics generally, have no sense of irony.

George F. Will writes on politics and domestic and foreign affairs for The Washington Post.

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Every Friday.

Public Notices

Hartford

NOTICE: U-Haul Moving and Storage
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and personal items, contained in the follow-
ing storage rooms due to unpaid storage
fees on Monday, February 28th, 2022.

John Greenspan UNIT 2319
Miguel Salas-Gomez UNIT 2325
NARCISCO TEXIDOR UNIT 1305
Sharon Whitehead UNIT 2303
DIANE HIGA UNIT 1308
Janet Scanlon UNIT 1101
Ashley Marko UNIT 2305

Contents to be sold on the premises of
900 west Main Street, New Britain, CT
06052 on Monday, February 28th, 2022 on
Storageauctions.com and close out at
10:00AM.

Purchases to be paid for at the time of
purchase, a \$100.00 CASH ONLY deposit will
be needed on EACH room purchased. U-HAUL
reserves the right to bid or purchase any lot
or space. Auction service provided by www.
storageauctions.com

Absolutely NO U-Haul Storage customers, or
their family or friends on their behalf, whose
units are listed in auction, may participate in
any auction proceedings. You MUST contact
Marketing Company Storage Manager, Joy
Pace, for an appointment to purchase any
units won in auction. All persons will be
turned away without an appointment. Contact
Joy Pace with any questions or concerns at
Joy_Pace@uhaul.com
2/14, 2/15/2022 71397513

Connecticut

Bid Number: 022-001
Start / End Dates & Times:
02/01/2022 - 2:00pm to 02/28/2022
- 10:00am
Bid: Open
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KENT VILLAGE CENTER STREETSCAPE
IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE ONE
KENT, CT
Issued On: Tuesday February 1, 2022
Bid Due: Friday, February 28, 2022 at 10:00
AM
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Boulevard, Kent, CT 06757 invites sealed
bids for Kent Village Center Streetscape
Improvements - Phase One, in accordance
with the Contract Documents prepared by
SLR Consulting, Inc.
Bids will be received at the office of The
First Selectman, Town Hall, Second Floor, 41
Kent Green Boulevard, PO Box 678, Kent, CT
06757 until 10:00 AM local time on Monday,
February 28, 2022, at which time and place,
said Bids will be publicly opened and read
aloud.
Please go to Town of Kent website for
bid package information https://www.
townofkentct.org/home/bids/kent-village-
center-streetscape-improvements-phase-one
2/9/2/16/2022 7146870

Connecticut

The Town of Enfield has prepared a draft
Annual MS4 Report for calendar year 2021 in
accordance with the Connecticut Department
of Energy and Environmental Protection's
General Permit for the Discharge of
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This Public Notice serves as a solicitation for
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comment on the Draft Annual MS4 Report
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normal business hours at the following loca-
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Road, in the Town Hall at 820 Enfield Street,
and on the Town's website [https://www.
enfield-ct.gov/].
Comments on the draft Annual MS4 Report
can be submitted over a 30-day period, or
through March 17, 2022 to:
Ken Boulette
Assistant Director - Public Works
Town of Enfield
40 Moody Road
Enfield, CT 06082
860-763-7524 (0)
KBoulette@enfield.org
2/14/2022 7149717

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KBoulette@enfield.org
2/14/2022 7149899

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Other Towns in CT Southington
Robert Boutot Robert Boutot

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Boutot, Robert



Robert Boutot, 91, of Wolcott, died peacefully at Midstate Medical Center on Saturday, February 12, 2022 surrounded by his loving family after a brief illness. He was the widower of Theres (Ringuette) Boutot. Robert was born on January 1, 1931 in Stockholm, Maine, son of Romeo and Ludivine (Michaud) Boutot. Robert served his country as a paratrooper in the United States Army in Korea during the Korean War. Upon his discharge from the military Robert and his wife Theresa settled in Connecticut to raise their family together. He worked for Scovill's Manufacturing at the Copper Tube Mill located in New Milford until his retirement. Robert was an avid gardener, both vegetable and flower gardens. If you were looking for him he could always be found in his backyard either tending to the tomatoes, picking string beans, or planting new flowers. He loved the outdoors but if it was raining he was quick to challenge you to a few games of cribbage. Robert enjoyed watching MSNBC, the NY Yankees, Wheel of Fortune, and American Pickers, all while eating his grapes, pecan turtles, and working on his Search-a-Word books. The highlight of his day was going to the Southington Senior center, even after moving to Wolcott, to play pool with the guys and stay to have lunch and chat awhile with his closest friends before coming home. Left to cherish his memory are his daughter Diane and son-in-law Bruce with whom he made his home in Wolcott and his son Robert and his wife Donna. His grandchildren whom he loved so much, Justin Michaud and his wife Chantel, Jenna Kniep and her husband Matt, Erin Williams and her husband John, Christopher Boutot and his wife Crystal, and Matthew Boutot; his seven great-grandchildren whom he adored, Bodhi, Ivy, Easton, Maxwell, Lucas, Aiden and Arya. He is also survived by his sisters Ceil Zantow, Ramona DellaVecchia and her husband Maurice, Jean St. Arnold and her husband Larry and brother Galen Boutot and his wife Elaine, brother Jerry Boutot; sisters-in-law Solange Martin, Theresa Ringuette and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition his parents he was predeceased by sisters, Charlene Albert and Geraldine Soucy; brothers Donald, Gerald and Roland; sisters-in-law Geralda Boutot, Theresa Boutot and brothers-in-law Bill Zantow, Lucien Martin and Richard Ringuette. The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and the entire staff and Hospice Staff, especially Lead Nurse Jen at Midstate Medical Center for their excellent care, kindness and compassion through Robert's journey. His funeral will be held on Thursday, February 17th at 9:15 a.m. from the DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 690 Woodtick Rd., Wolcott to St. Pius X Church, 525 Woodtick Rd., Wolcott for a Mass of Christian burial. Entombment with military honors will follow at Calvary Cemetery, Waterbury. Please join us for calling hours on Wednesday, from 5-7 p.m. Donations in Robert's memory can be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For on-line condolences and directions please visit, www.dellavecchiawolcott.com

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 ORTHODOX RUSSIAN CROSS	 STAR OF DAVID	 FOOTBALL	 POLICE BADGE	 CORE ORGAN DONOR	 SHAMROCK
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Pandemic study: Poorest hit hardest

Survey shows disparity in financial damage for Connecticut residents

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

The COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly difficult for Connecticut residents in the state's poorest cities, a large statewide survey has found.

While 19% of Connecticut adults say they are worse off financially than they were two years ago, according to the survey, that number was 31% in Hartford, 29%

in Bridgeport, 20% in New Haven and 28% in Waterbury.

As has been the case nationally, the past two years appear to have enriched Connecticut's most comfortable residents while harming its most vulnerable. Among adults earning more than \$100,000, 36% say they are better off financially than in February 2020, while 11% say they are worse off. Those numbers are almost exactly reversed for adults earning less than \$30,000, 17% of whom report being better off financially than two years ago and 34% of whom report being worse off.

Meanwhile, 28% of adults in

"urban core towns" report losing a job since February 2020 and 24% report visiting a food bank. About 20% of adults in those towns — including more than a quarter of those in Hartford — say they have difficulty paying for food, and 14% say they have difficulty paying for housing.

Adults in urban core towns were also more likely to report feeling anxious or depressed.

Statewide, Black residents and Latino residents report much higher levels of food and housing insecurity than white residents, the survey found.

The survey, conducted by the

nonprofit DataHaven, included 9,139 phone interviews with randomly-selected adults in every Connecticut town. Its margin for error is 1.4%.

"The survey shows that adults in Connecticut's urban areas endured more pandemic-related hardships than their suburban counterparts," Mark Abraham, DataHaven's executive director, said in a statement.

The DataHaven survey mirrors research finding that income and wealth inequality nationwide has increased during the pandemic, as those with stock portfolios have benefited from a strong market, while those with low-wage jobs

have faced elevated risk of unemployment.

Lower-income Black and Latino people in Connecticut and elsewhere have also faced higher risk from COVID-19 itself, with highly disproportionate levels of cases and deaths. In the DataHaven survey, 29% of Black adults and 25% of Hispanic adults — but only 14% of white adults — reported having a friend or family member die of COVID-19.

Mask-wearing tendencies also varied, with 77% of Black adults and 61% of Hispanic adults saying

Turn to Survey, Page 2



Participants start the 15th Annual Run for Refugees 5K in New Haven on Sunday. JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

More than 1,300 turn out for CT Run for Refugees



Gladys Mwilelo and her family fled violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mwilelo spoke to runners at the start of the run Sunday.

Concern remains for Afghans seeking asylum: 'They can't go back to the Taliban'

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

NEW HAVEN — Gladys Mwilelo was a teenager when Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services helped as her family emigrated to Connecticut from the Democratic Republic of Congo eight years ago.

This year, Mwilelo spoke — for the third time — at the Run for Refugees, the key fundraising and awareness event for Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, which returned Sunday after a pandemic hiatus.

"It's a remembrance of who I am and how far I have come" Mwilelo said from the starting platform.

Two thousand people — runners, speakers, spectators, IRIS staff and volunteers — had been expected at the event, held on the streets around Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven. The Sunday morning snowfall did not appear to dissuade many registrants from turning up.

The Run for Refugees is equal parts awareness raiser and fundraiser, said Ann O'Brien, IRIS's director of community engagement.

"It's our only major fundraiser. We don't do a gala or a tournament," she said. "This is our thing. Some people don't even know

Turn to Run, Page 2

Lamont seeks to cap drug prices

Plan draws fire from industry split between drugmakers, insurers

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Gov. Ned Lamont is proposing to cap drug prices, drawing criticism from an industry divided between pharmaceutical companies and insurers.

In the annual debate in the General Assembly over health care policy, Lamont proposes to set a maximum price on drugs and seek imports from Canada as part of a health care package. Connecticut's largest business group is opposed, pointing to the success of drug companies to rapidly bring to market COVID-19 vaccines.

The pharmaceutical industry said insurance companies must do more to reduce drug costs.

"It's really important to note that this proposal does not address the root cause of patients' biggest concern — rising out-of-pocket costs," said Jasmine Gossett, director of public affairs at biopharmaceutical policy group PhRMA.

The insurance industry shot back.

"It's clear that Big PhRMA is engaged in a distraction campaign and looking to point the finger at anyone but themselves," said Susan Halpin, executive director of the Connecticut Association of Health Plans.

"We're still digesting the governor's proposal but agree with his focus on drug pricing and look forward to working with him and the legislature on the best ways to address the issues."

Lamont is proposing to hold drug prices to the rate of inflation plus 2%, similar to legislation that failed last year.

"No more skipping your pill regimen, no more cutting pills in half" he said at a recent news conference at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

Capping drug prices that can

Turn to Drugs, Page 2

Drag scene rebounds, with more shows and brunches

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

The Connecticut drag scene, forthright and resilient and fabulous as ever, came through the COVID-19 shutdown virtually unscathed and may be stronger than it's been in years. There are more shows, more venues, more performers, new talent and fresh approaches to the age-old art of dressing up so that all eyes in the room are on you.

This month alone has brought a drag-based "Red Velvet Party" with a speed-dating option for singles at the Velvet Mill in Stonington on Feb. 11, a Super Bowl-themed drag spectacular called "We Love Sports" at Hartford's LGBTQ+ club Chez Est on Feb.

12, an "alt-punk Valentine's drag show" at the State House rock club in New Haven on Feb. 13. There are regular weekly drag events at clubs around the state, including an uptick in the venerable tradition of drag brunches.

Sky Casper, a major producer of LGBTQ+ entertainment in the Hartford area (as well as around the state and in New England and New York), says "business is better than ever. Ten venues want to work with me, and the majority of them want drag shows. I sold out all my drag brunches this month. I had a bit of a lag a few months ago, and we're not up to pre-COVID numbers yet, but there are more opportunities to show more talents in more spaces than ever."

Casper is known for his "Pink

Eggs and Glam" drag brunches currently held in West Hartford, Manchester, New London and elsewhere. "This month is the first time I've had one every weekend somewhere." He recently started a new series, "Queens Against Humanity," a drag variation on the fill-in-the-blanks party game Cards Against Humanity. "It's a witty, fun time," Casper says. He's also begun booking shows regularly into The Place 2 Be, which has two locations in Hartford, one in West Hartford and one opening soon in New Haven. "It's not a typical drag show," Casper says of his Place 2 Be shows in West Hartford. "There are two performers, in separate rooms, performing at the same time."

Turn to Drag, Page 2



The inimitable Mia E Z' Lay is a regular performer and hostess at Chez Est and elsewhere. MIA E Z' LAY/COURTESY

CONNECTICUT

Run

from Page 1

about IRIS but love the idea of the race and the mission of immigration.”

IRIS opened a new satellite office in Hartford this past fall, a rented space at Trinity Episcopal Church that O’Brien said is already outgrowing its initial staffing of three caseworkers.

Besides the offices in New Haven and Hartford, which help find affordable housing and help set up families with schooling, jobs and other assistance, IRIS has groups throughout the state that co-sponsor families in their communities. A number of recent immigrants are able to live in areas where previous groups of immigrants from Afghanistan have already settled, including Hartford.

One of the main IRIS awareness initiatives this year, O’Brien said, “is getting the American public reengaged to push legislators to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.

“We brought hundred of thousands of people here, but we didn’t provide them with a path to citizenship. In the next two years, they will have to apply for asylum and might not get it,” O’Brien said. “What if they don’t? They can’t go back to the Taliban. Everybody needs to reach out to their congressmen. Local legislators are supportive, but time is ticking for these people.”

Cindy Dunn, a community co-sponsor from Newtown who works with IRIS through the Interfaith Partnership For Refugee Resettlement, and Maman Cooper, a refugee herself whose family came to the U.S. 17 years ago after fleeing Liberia for the Ivory Coast, were among the many IRIS staffers and supporters at the Run for Refugees Sunday.

“I absolutely love working for IRIS,” said Cooper, who began working with IRIS as an ambassador, helping clients acclimate to schools and communities, and now works at the new Hartford office. “It brings me so much joy. I came here as a child and got to see how welcoming they are.”

“What’s off the hook this year,” Dunn said, “is how many people are coming forward now, offering apartments for low cost or sometimes for free, and donating clothing and furniture.”

Local political leaders were among those speaking from a platform at the start of the race Sunday. U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said he has attended the race every year it has been run.

“It has never been more important or powerful than now, when we have been working so hard for Afghan refugees to come here. I talked to the president about it this week. IRIS welcomed 370

Afghan refugees this year. It is a model for the whole country,” Blumenthal said. “This is the Run for Refugees. We should all be working and running for refugees. See all these people in the snow on a Sunday morning!”

Blumenthal has run in the race in the past but did not this year. New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker did run, and was among the first few dozen finishers, though he’d proclaimed on the speaker’s platform that “I ate pancakes for breakfast, which may not have been a good idea.”

Elicker added that “New Haven is a place that welcomes everyone, no matter where you’re from.”

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-3, proclaimed, “Immigrants and refugees, you are not alone” and discussed “my work with IRIS to petition the State Department to get refugees out of Afghanistan. There is no greater cause.”

Mwilelo attended Wilbur Cross High School, where the 5K run begins and ends. She went on to study strategic communications and journalism at Central Connecticut State University and now works for IRIS coordinating its online after-school program for grades 3 through 8.

“No one decides to become a refugee,” Mwilelo said. “It could happen to anyone. We all have to keep that in my mind. We come together to help each other. I focus on the mission of helping. I know what it’s like to be them.”

On the platform, Mwilelo read a poetic statement that likened fleeing her homeland to “becoming a runner.”

IRIS Executive Director Chris George said that “this is the first time in 15 years where we have a light snowfall, but nothing will keep you from showing up.”

Nearly 1,400 runners, and several dogs, participated in the race. Some were regular runners who found the 5K fit their schedule of races, while others combined the running with some activism.

O’Brien said that while some IRIS clients take part in the actual race, “there was not as big a push on the clients to come as in the past,” due to “the crush” of IRIS activities from the fall, as well as COVID-19 concerns.

The last time the race was run, in January 2020, there were 3,200 participants and 1,500 spectators, O’Brien said. Last year there was a “virtual race” fundraiser online.

The winner of Sunday’s race was Will McDonough of New Canaan, who ran the 5K course in 16 minutes and 35 seconds. Andrew Ntim of New Haven came in 4 seconds behind McDonough. Laura Pierce of Woodbridge was the first woman to cross the finish line.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.



Cooper

Drugs

from Page 1

cost thousands of dollars a year to treat chronic and common conditions such as diabetes is a popular issue in a year when Lamont and state lawmakers are seeking reelection.

“Politically, it’s a policy winner,” said state Sen. Matt Lesser, co-chairman of the legislature’s insurance committee. “We’re going to see a lot of action on prescription drugs because people are really struggling.”

But Paul Pescatello, executive director of the Connecticut Bioscience Growth Council at the Connecticut Business & Industry Association, said price controls have never worked and are counterproductive. Capping prices would cause supply shortages of medications and slow the introduction of new ones, he said.

“It doesn’t solve the problem at all. It stifles innovation,” Pescatello said.

Drug prices make up about 15% of health care costs and reflect research and development costs that must be recouped, he said.

“You’d think after biopharma stepped up to the plate in COVID, the R&D machine really worked,” he said, “Why would you want to gum up that machine?”

Pescatello called Canadian importation a “vampire bill.”

“It keeps coming back. Canadians have said they don’t want to supply us.

They don’t have an excess to export,” he said.

‘Complex process’

Gossett said rising out-of-pocket costs are due to increasing insurance deductibles, copayments and coinsurance. In contrast, pharmacy prices and spending have been stable or declining, she said.

The industry proposes that insurance companies share rebates and discounts with patients at the pharmacy counter, and coupons provided by manufacturers should count toward patient deductibles or other cost-sharing, Gossett said.

In addition, states should require health insurers to offer some health plan options that exclude medicines from the deductible and offer set copay amounts instead of forcing patients to pay based on the full list price of their medicines.

Lamont also is proposing to authorize drug imports from Canada. He said pharmaceutical costs could fall 75% “if we bought at the same prices as in Canada.”

President Joe Biden issued an executive order in July directing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to work with the states to develop programs to import drugs. In Connecticut, the assignment was given to the Department of Consumer Protection.

“It’s a complex process,” Social Services Commissioner Deidre Gifford said. “But we know there’s federal support for it, lots of

local support, so we’ll work through the issues that need to be hammered out to make that happen.”

Lesser said U.S. and Canada regulations are not consistent and the Canadian government is under pressure from the industry to restrict exports.

“Whether it’s doable is very much to be determined,” he said.

Lesser said he will introduce numerous health care bills, including extending medical coverage to children older than 9 regardless of their immigration status. Lawmakers and Lamont last year enacted a law benefiting children up to age 9.

Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford said health care proposals from his caucus are “pretty much along the same lines” as in previous years. A reinsurance program to shield insurers from very high claims that has previously failed to advance is more important now before federal pandemic aid expires next year, he said.

“Now is the time to adopt reinsurance so we put the wheels in motion so when those funds evaporate we are ready to go,” Kelly said.

One area where Lamont, Republicans and business agree is a benchmarking program to control rising costs by measuring and comparing pricing. The governor is seeking legislation that would codify his executive action putting benchmarking in place.

Lamont’s proposal also would expand access to

dental care and family planning services that will expand the Medicaid provider network by adopting occupational licensing agreements to cut red tape for doctors and psychologists and spending \$35 million to expand nursing and mental health education and training.

An additional \$20 million in financial aid would be made available for students pursuing a nursing or mental health degree, and \$17 million in a student loan-forgiveness program for clinicians in underserved communities.

More than 7,000 qualified applicants were denied admission to Connecticut nursing programs in 2020 because of faculty shortages, lack of student clinical placements and limited capacity, Lamont said.

Lamont also would require insurance companies to adopt health enhancement policies similar to wellness programs that provide financial benefits, including lower premium, deductibles and copays to patients who visit their doctors, dentists and undergo cancer screenings.

“There will always be some additional things,” he said, referring to legislation certain to come up in the session that adjourns May 4. “I think what we have on the table right now is actually pretty ambitious for a short session.”

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Drag

from Page 1

“Drag didn’t really stop” during the pandemic, says New Haven Pride Center Executive Director Patrick Dunn, who also produces and performs drag shows as Kiki Lucia. “How it was consumed changed. Many drag artists learned how to do video.” Streaming events ranged from pre-recorded club sets to daily cooking shows. The Facebook page CT Drag Fans continues to post videos of drag performances around the state.

When live shows came back, some longstanding issues in the community were addressed. Dunn says it had been common for pride events in the state to pay little or no money for artists to perform. When they resurfaced, many organizations “increased their base fees for all drag performers,” Dunn says. New mainstream performance opportunities arose, such as an outdoor drag show at the International Festival of Arts & Ideas and a Long Wharf Theatre opening night party hosted by drag queens.

Dunn’s still concerned that while the drag community stayed visible during the COVID-19 shutdown,

livelihoods suffered. “I was looking at a loss of 20% of my income, and there are full-time queens who lost all their shows for a while. We weren’t allowed to take a break. Drag artists fall under gig artists, and gig artists have it tough. You saw the most ingenious ways of keeping active. Mia E Z’Lay went superviral on platforms like Twitch. Our amazing friends at Chez Est were streaming shows.” Dunn arranged a series of Drag Story Hours (where queens read children’s books aloud) that were streamed through the Pride Center and for which the artists were paid.

When clubs could reopen, “we were back the first night we could be,” Dunn says. “Audiences are hungry for what we do. My show at Partners” — the gay club on Crown Street in New Haven — “has entered its fifth year. The appreciation has definitely increased. People are seeing drag as real art for the first time. The art in Connecticut has gotten stronger.

“We have always had a strong drag community, but a whole new generation of drag artists was born in the pandemic. They came out as fully realized drag queens. There was no ‘ugly duckling’ period. It’s

doubling the number of performers. I am one of the biggest producers of drag in Connecticut, and I could do all shows of new performers if I wanted. Then there are all these seasoned performers who took the time to broaden what they do. Lucy LaDuca took the time to embody impersonation drag, doing Joan Rivers and others.”

Other areas of drag, besides performing, are also booming. Before the shutdown, “there was one established wigmaker” that established drag performers went to in the area, Dunn says. “Now there are six. There are more jewelers, sound mixers, producers, directors ...”

“Drag is popular; drag is fun; drag is art,” says Mia E Z’Lay, one of the few full-time drag performers in the state. She’s a fixture at Chez Est in Hartford, including hosting its Thursday night Open Stage, and also is part of “Lipstick, Lashes & Lies: A Variety Drag Show” in the Comix Comedy Club at Mohegan Sun Casino. “Lipstick, Lashes & Lies” started three years ago and has gone from a monthly event to twice a month, then weekly and now twice a week. Z’Lay is also part of the Drag Brunch movement, running one called

“Madames and Mimosas” at Thomas Hooker Brewery Company in Hamptonfield.

“I’m just happy to do drag and have a good time,” Z’Lay says. “I try to travel, but it’s hard right now.” Luckily, there are enough opportunities in the state for a full-time drag queen. She can also have standards, for example only working at clubs that can offer her a decent changing area. “Winters still suck — attendance is always lower in January, and your bones hurt from the cold. But shows are back now. My bills are paid, to an extent. Safety precautions are in place. It’s as normal as it can be.”

Tia Lynn Waters, also known as Bubbles or Bubblicious, is a longtime veteran of the New Haven drag scene, and an icon of black drag community. She recalls a time when a circuit of nightclubs such as Gotham Citi, BAR and Partners each had a single night of drag per week, and the community shifted from one to the other. “Everybody had a night.” Now she sees that “people are more interested,” that drag nights are no longer as segregated as they used to be from other partying scenes, and there are more opportunities for drag performers in general.

Survey

from Page 1

they wear a mask “very often” when leaving their homes, compared to 48% of white adults.

Overall, 22% of Connecticut adults say they are completely satisfied with

their life, 44% say they are mostly satisfied, 23% somewhat satisfied, 7% only a little bit satisfied and 3% not at all satisfied. Older residents were more likely to be satisfied with their lives than younger ones, and those with higher incomes were more likely to be satisfied than those with lower

incomes.

The survey also asked residents their views on different institutions, with 51% reporting a “great deal” or “fair amount” of trust in the federal government, 65% reporting that level of trust in state government and 72% reporting that level of trust in local government. Addi-

tionally, 86% say they trust local health care workers and 82% say they support local police and law enforcement.

Those results varied across geographic and demographic lines, with white, wealthy and suburban people reporting more trust in health care workers

and law enforcement than other groups.

Additionally, 73% of adults in wealthy towns and 64% of those in suburbs say people in their neighborhoods can be trusted, compared to 27% of those in the urban core.

DataHaven said this is its fifth similar survey in the

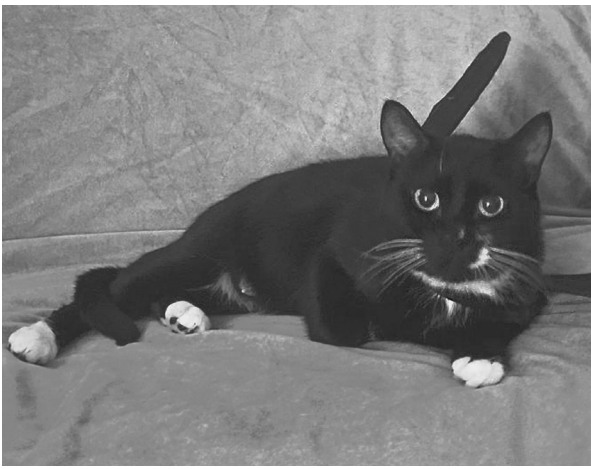
past 10 years and that it is “supported by 80 public and private organizations including community foundations, municipalities, hospitals and universities.”

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.



Cooper

Cooper is a gorgeous, sweet, 1-year-old kitty who thrives on attention (on his own terms) and loves to play. He can be an only pet or in a home with another friendly cat or cat-friendly dog. Cooper is FIV+ and also requires medicine, which he is very good about taking, and will need someone diligent enough to make sure he gets it as prescribed. While Cooper does require some care, he’s really ready for a loving home. He would be OK with older children. Please consider adopting Cooper. For more information, go to CatTalesCT.org/cats/Cooper or call 860-344-9043 or email info@CatTalesCT.org.



Ducky

Ducky is a sweet 1 ½-year-old female tuxedo. She was rescued along with her kittens, who all have homes. Ducky was also adopted, but unfortunately the resident cat didn’t want her company. Ducky is hoping for a new home where she is welcomed and loved. If interested, call AFOC at 860-693-0303 for more information.

For more information or to submit a pet for adoption, please email pets@courant.com.

Please include a photo, a description of the pet including age and personality, and contact information including an email address and a phone number.



Ren

Righteous Ren is ready to rock your world. This 4-year-old cutie appreciates a good play session, but his favorite spot is on your lap receiving plenty of pets. Ren is FIV+, but cats with FIV can still live long, healthy and normal lives in a safe, nurturing environment. He requests to be your one and only pet to soak up all the attention and love. Learn more about Ren by contacting Our Companions at 860-242-9999 or email Helpline@OurCompanions.org.

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And Me
All The Way.
I Love You.
Happy
Valentine's
Day
**Love
Bebs**
2/14/22

DEMPS
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Lived In The Past
Move Over Jaquaine
He's Doing His
Morning Exercizes
It's Tommy Salami &
The Cold Cuts
No You Didn't Pretend
You Were Blind
The Invaders Featuring
Little Billy
What's Your Problem
With French Canadians?
The Red Fire Hydrant
You Are My Hero, Thanks
For Your Service HPD
Happy 38 Years
I Love You!
Dirty Pillows

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NOW PLAYING

Reviews of movies showing in theaters or streaming online

‘CLEAN’: The gritty indie revenge thriller “Clean” is clearly a labor of love for Adrien Brody. Not only does he star as a garbage man who goes by the moniker Clean, but he also produced the film, composed the score, contributed original music and makes his feature screenwriting debut, as a co-writer on the screenplay with director Paul Solet. Clean lives and works in a blighted upstate New York town, where homes stand empty and criminal organizations run the streets. He’s struggling with his past, tormented by nightmares, and so he puts his head down and goes to work, picking up the trash, attending recovery meetings and trying his best to do what he can around town, painting over graffiti on abandoned buildings, offering rides and meals to a young teenage girl, Dianda (Chandler Ari DuPont), who clearly reminds him of the young daughter who haunts his memories. Streaming on demand and digital. 1:34. 2 stars. — *Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service*

‘DEATH ON THE NILE’: In “Death on the Nile,” his follow-up to the 2017 Agatha Christie mystery “Murder on the Orient Express,” director/star Kenneth Branagh returns as Detective Hercule Poirot. During a vacation in Egypt, Poirot finds himself swept up in the wedding party of heiress Linnet Ridgeway (Gal Gadot) and her new hubby Simon Doyle (Armie Hammer). Seeking to escape the entreaties of Simon’s obsessed ex, Jacqueline (Emma Mackey), the group embarks on trip

down the Nile aboard a posh riverboat. The motley crew includes Linnet’s old friend Rosalie (Letitia Wright), her aunt, a blues singer named Salome (Sophie Okonedo), Linnet’s ex-fiance Dr. Windlesham (Russell Brand), her godmother Marie (Jennifer Saunders) and companion (Dawn French), Linnet’s close friend/accountant Katchadourian (Ali Fazal), her maid Louise (Rose Leslie), as well as Poirot’s pal from the Orient Express, Bouc (Tom Bateman) and his mother, Euphemia (Annette Bening). Eventually, a death will occur, and Poirot will be there to figure it out. 2:07. 2 ½ stars. — *Katie Walsh*

‘ENCANTO’: The Disney Animation film “Encanto” sweeps audiences away to a colorful, enchanted world of Colombian magical realism, introducing the Madrigal family, who have each been granted extraordinary gifts, except one, our hero, Mirabel (Stefanie Beatriz), who has yet to discover her own personal magic. The Madrigal family magic was borne out of extreme trauma and pain, when matriarch Abuela Alma (Maria Cecilia Botero) lost her husband while fleeing violence in their village. In desperation, she cried out for protection for herself and her infant triplets, and a magical candle raised mountains around a charmed casita, where she’s raised her family since. Each Madrigal receives their gift in a coming-of-age ceremony. The only exception to the magical rule so far is the sweet, smart Mirabel, who never received her gift, and has since felt like the family

outcast, bending over backward to earn her place among them. As she starts to see cracks in the foundation of their beloved casita, Mirabel probes deeper in to the family’s magic, and ultimately realizes that all of her family members are caught in the trap of perfectionism. 1:39. 3 stars. — *Katie Walsh*

‘JACKASS FOREVER’: The opening sequence of “Jackass Forever” is one you’ll never forget. It’s a piece of filmmaking so bold, so audacious and so unbelievably, sublimely stupid that it will no doubt etch itself on your brain for years to come. I don’t dare describe it in print, because everyone deserves to discover it for themselves, but also because this publication wouldn’t be able to print the details. Let’s just say it’s “Godzilla”-inspired, with a uniquely “Jackass” twist. “Sublimely stupid” is what the “Jackass” crew does best, and their formula (thankfully) hasn’t wavered since the prank/stunt reality comedy show debuted on MTV in October 2000, and evolved into a film franchise spanning two decades. There’s something comforting about the phrase, “I’m Johnny Knoxville, welcome to Jackass,” even, no, especially if what comes next is a display of pure human agony and humiliation. 1:36. 3 stars. — *Katie Walsh*

‘MARRY ME’: In the past, rom-coms starring Jennifer Lopez often saddled her with professions that are just too unbelievable. “Maid in Manhattan”? “The Wedding Planner”? Not our Jenny from the Block. So it’s refreshing to see J.Lo, in a much-



Owen Wilson, Jennifer Lopez and Chloe Coleman star in “Marry Me.” UNIVERSAL PICTURES

heralded return to the romantic comedy fold, playing a character who just makes sense for her: a global pop superstar. But it’s not just a professional life that Lopez shares with her character, Kat Valdez, in “Marry Me,” directed by Kat Coiro, based on a graphic novel by Bobby Crosby, and that’s a good thing. Lopez brings authenticity to her portrayal of Kat Valdez, a heightened version of Lopez herself. This delightfully meta Venn diagram of character and star is placed within a preposterously high-concept scenario for a rom-com. 1:52. 2 ½ stars. Streaming on Peacock. — *Katie Walsh*

‘MOONFALL’: Jazz great Slim Gaillard’s interpretation of “How High the Moon” includes this existential pearl: “Everybody’s wondering how high the moon/The moon never wonder how low you are.” It’s something to think about, which is more than a sane viewer would say about Roland Emmerich’s new disaster film “Moonfall.” In Emmerich’s career of perpetually putting Earth at the edge of violent extinction with “Independence Day,” “The Day After Tomorrow,” “2012” and

others, this one’s the trippiest of all. His movies are daft narrative blurs, full of calamity, yet there’s zero meanness on screen, which makes him the good-time polar opposite of Michael Bay in “Transformers” mode. Emmerich’s payoffs may be ridiculous but they’re sincere. His vision of the world, and how to save it, again, contains multitudes of both punishment and payoff, and “Moonfall” offers a unique hybrid: the payoffishment. 2:00. 2 stars. — *Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune*

‘SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME’: Casting Tom Holland as Peter Parker was one of the sharper decisions to emerge from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Holland provides the glue and the webbing for “Spider-Man: No Way Home.” Director Jon Watts and screenwriters Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers deliver an extremely busy, generally entertaining venture into the MCU multiverse of alternate timelines, competing versions of the same character and swirling trippiness. If you caught the animated and extremely deft 2018 “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,” you’ll get the idea. This film has little of

that film’s visual invention but a good deal of its verbal wit. 2:28. 3 stars. — *Michael Phillips*

‘THE WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD’: Throughout Norwegian filmmaker Joachim Trier’s humanist, candid and melancholy Oslo-set romantic drama, “The Worst Person in the World,” you may find yourself wondering who the titular character might be. Is it Julie (Renata Reinsve), the indecisive, impulsive, entrancing hero at the center of the story? Is it Aksel (Anders Danielsen Lie), Julie’s older boyfriend, a brilliant, edgy comic book artist? Is it the sweetly submissive Eivind (Herbert Nordrum) one of Julie’s other suitors? The truth is that none of them are “the worst” even if they may, at times, feel that way; indeed it’s their fumbling, failing, flailing attempts to run toward happiness that make them so relatable, and ultimately, lovable. “The Worst Person in the World” is incredibly good company, as it turns out. In Norwegian with English subtitles. 2:07. 4 stars. — *Katie Walsh*

RATINGS: The movies listed are rated according to the following key: 4 stars, excellent; 3 stars, good; 2 stars, fair; 1 star, poor.

CELEBRITIES

Comic: Plan not right fit for village

From news services

Comedian Dave Chappelle said his threat to pull the plug on his plans to open a comedy club near his hometown in Ohio wasn’t because he opposed a proposal for affordable housing in a nearby development. Chappelle, who became the target of criticism after speaking against the development in Yellow Springs, said in a statement that the plan was not the right fit for the village.

“Dave Chappelle didn’t kill affordable housing. Concerned residents and a responding Village Council ‘killed’ a half-baked plan, which never actually offered affordable housing,” said Carla Sims, a spokesperson for Chappelle.

Chappelle was among several residents who spoke against the project at a recent council meeting.

The comedian, who announced last year that he was buying a former fire station in Yellow Springs with plans to turn it into a comedy club, said he would back out if the project was allowed.

The council sided with Chappelle and other residents opposing the project, which would have been expanded to include duplexes, town homes and less than two acres for future affordable housing. Instead, the project will go forward with just single-family homes.

“Neither Dave nor his neighbors are against affordable housing, however, they are against the poorly vetted, cookie-cutter, sprawl-style development deal which has little regard for the community, culture and infrastructure of the Village,” said the statement from Chappelle’s spokesperson.

Rocker McDonald dies: Ian McDonald, 75, a co-founder of pioneering



Dave Chappelle said in a statement that he does not oppose affordable housing. OWEN SWEENEY/INVISION 2019

progressive rock band King Crimson and stadium rock hitmaker Foreigner, has died. A representative said McDonald died Wednesday at his home in New York City. Son Max McDonald said his father had been suffering from cancer.

“My father was a brilliant, intuitive musician, a gentle soul, and a wonderful dad,” Max McDonald said in a statement. “He will live on forever through his beautiful music and the love of his fans.”

Ian McDonald formed King Crimson in 1968 with fellow musicians who included Greg Lake and Robert Fripp. He played multiple instruments, including saxophone, flute and vibraphone, on the band’s 1969 debut album, “In the Court of the Crimson King.”

In 1976, McDonald formed Foreigner with guitarist Mick Jones and singer Lou Gramm.

Sting sells music catalog: Sting is selling his music catalog, including hits he made with the Police and as a solo artist. Universal said recently that its music-publishing arm bought the catalog, including “Every Breath You Take,” “Roxanne” and “Fields of Gold.” Financial terms were not disclosed.

In a statement issued by Universal Music Group, Sting said he wants his work used to connect with longtime fans in new ways and “to introduce my songs to new audiences, musicians and generations.”

Feb. 14 birthdays: Saxophonist Maceo Parker is 79. TV personality Pat O’Brien is 74. Magician Teller is 74. Singer Renee Fleming is 63. Actor Meg Tilly is 62. Singer Dwayne Wiggins is 61. Actor Simon Pegg is 52. Singer Rob Thomas is 50. Actor Danai Gurira is 44. Actor Jake Lacy is 37. Actor Freddie Highmore is 30.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Sibling desperate to stop enabling brother

Dear Amy: I am an enabler. And it’s killing me. How can I stop?

My brother has been in and out of prison for the past 15 years.

I enabled him in prison by sending him money, and now he’s back and using me for money, food, rides and anything else he can sucker out of me.

Why do I do it? Because I feel guilty that I have so much, and I don’t want to feel responsible for him being homeless or forcing him to steal again to support his gambling habit because I wouldn’t give him money.

I also enable my siblings because I do 90% of the care for our elderly mother, who needs supervision and assistance.

I do her shopping, medications, appointments, finances and home repairs. I’m exhausted ... physically, mentally and emotionally. I have no life caring for my mother (a task that I willingly do).

I need to block my brother on my cellphone.

How do I break this vicious cycle?

— *Desperate for a Way Out*

Dear Desperate: Your addiction is taking a considerable toll on you.

I refer to enabling as an addiction because you realize you are doing it, you see the negative consequences, you are desperate to stop, and yet you believe that you are powerless to control your own behavior.

You need a light-bulb moment (or 10) to fully understand that your behavior is actually contributing to your brother’s. He is a criminal and

a manipulator, and you are providing him with just enough of his “drug” (money) to keep him in his addiction. He has no hope of recovery as long as you continue.

Enabling at your level is actually a bid for control. Some of the same impulses that your brother experiences (the anxiety, the need to keep negative feelings at bay) are at play in your DNA, too. He has the advantage of not caring. But then, he doesn’t have to care about his actions, because you’re doing it for him.

You need to understand that your love is going to have to be enough.

This is textbook “co-dependency.” You deserve treatment. A counselor could support you as you flip the switch to light some of these lightbulbs.

The “bible” of co-dependency is “Codependent No More: How to Stop Controlling Others and Start Caring for Yourself,” by Melodie Beattie (1986, Hazelden).

Dear Amy: I have been on the internet dating scene for a while.

Sadly, it seems that most of the men I have dealt with appear to be juggling multiple women.

They have confused me with other women by addressing emails to the wrong person, they have promised me a lot and then dropped everything when something better comes along, etc.

It is a game for many men, while the women generally are serious about making a connection.

This is the truth from the frontlines of dating. — *L*

Dear L: I assume that there are some sites that are more “lasting relationship” oriented than others.

This past year I attended three weddings — all brought about by internet matching.

Dear Amy: I liked your answer to “Concerned Friends.” This group of friends were worried because their friend, “Jack,” had never had a girlfriend.

You cited a number of reasons why this might be, including the idea that he “might not be interested in a romantic relationship of any kind.”

A few years ago, my grandson approached me.

He said, “Gramma, do you know what ‘asexual’ means?”

I said, “Yes: You.”

He said, “Oh. You know!”

— *Supportive Gramma*

Dear Gramma: An estimated 1% of Americans identify as “asexual,” although that estimation seems low (to me), because people don’t really talk about asexuality.

People who are asexual are often told that they “just haven’t met the right person,” but asexual people do not desire sexual contact with others.

This does not preclude having healthy relationships, romances or any other emotional or physical human experience.

I congratulate you and your grandson for being so open with each other.

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Ally Sheedy savors nuanced role in ‘Single Drunk Female’

By Lynn Elber
Associated Press

Ally Sheedy’s career boasts hit movies including “The Breakfast Club” and “WarGames,” an award-winning turn in the indie film “High Art” and a string of TV roles scattered over the years.

While Sheedy often returned to television between big-screen projects, she was unaware of how many innovative shows had joined the ranks of the conventional. Then the 2020 pandemic lockdown arrived.

“I downloaded Hulu and HBO Max and Netflix and all this stuff that I never actually watched. I suddenly got an education on the streaming platforms,” she said in an interview.

When the script for Freeform’s “Single Drunk Female” came her way, Sheedy said, “it felt like a piece with the kinds of shows I had been able to watch ... I suddenly understood, ‘Oh, I see why a show like this could be made.’”

In the dark comedy, Sheedy plays mom Carol to the title character, 20-something, newly recovering alcoholic Samantha (Sofia Black-D’Elia). There’s no sugar-coating, with characters whose vulnerabilities are on full display as Samantha is forced to move back in with her mom.

The pair’s relationship is “very fluid and messy, which is what I love,” Sheedy said during a Q&A with TV critics. “I love Sofia. So, going to work every day was an absolute joy.”

Black-D’Elia (“The Night Of,” “Gossip Girl”) described the mother-daughter dynamic as “complicated and funny and weird and nuanced in



Ally Sheedy plays mom Carol to the title character in the dark comedy “Single Drunk Female.” **DANNY DELGADO/FREEFORM**

a way that I think any girl with a mother can understand and relate to, and it’s really fun doing it with Ally.”

The layered approach immediately attracted Sheedy to the 10-episode series that’s in its first season, airing Thursdays on cable channel Freeform and streaming on Hulu. Creator Simone Finch based it on her experience as a young woman.

Carol is “a woman of many contradictions,” Sheedy said. “She wasn’t written as any kind of quote-unquote mom, or ‘disaster of a mom.’ There were so many complexities and levels to her, and the dynamic with the daughter ... was really interesting and with a lot of places that it could go.”

Does Sheedy see parallels between contemporary TV and indie movies such as 1998’s “High Art”? In that film, Sheedy played a drug-addicted photographer in a relationship with a younger woman, earning an Independent Spirit Award for best female lead.

“Yes, as a matter of fact,” she said in an interview. “There was a moment, maybe extended moments (into) the late ’90s, when indie film was developing

and fruitful.”

The films included “a lot of roles that were written for women outside of the box,” she said. Sheedy sees the same happening in TV’s current wave, benefiting creators and viewers.

“There are so many stories that I wouldn’t just say need to be told, but are being asked for from a very broad audience,” she said.

Sheedy, who lives in New York, is putting her experience to work on screen and in the classroom. She’s in her fourth year of teaching a film acting class that she developed for City College of New York’s theater and speech department.

Sheedy appreciates how much has changed since her career began. Virtual classes required students to rely on smartphone cameras instead of the real deal, which she realized was a boon for developing skills, including lighting and editing, along with acting.

“They really do have a kind of limitless horizon as far as what they want to do,” Sheedy said. “They can write stuff, they can film stuff, they can post it. They can collaborate and create something and put it out there. This is all new.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Some thoughts aren’t for sharing. Even if you’d like to spill the details, it may be wiser to watch what you say. You could offend someone by offering an unwanted opinion. Turn your mind to your own issues instead.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The power of words is yours! If someone asks your advice or opinion, you’re probably more than willing to offer it — and it’s likely worth listening to. How you say things matters just as much as what you’re saying. Think about things before opening your mouth.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Focus on a wider perspective. The trouble is that some little details can really matter. If you aren’t careful, you could end up forgetting to make an appointment or run an errand. People are likely to get annoyed if you let them down, so check your messages even if you think you’re up to speed.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Reading between the lines may be easier than usual at this time. Things might make a lot more sense once you realize how they affect each other. You now have the ability to manage any sensitive or personal matters with a rational approach. Let this strengthen you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Being too focused on your own needs can negatively affect your perceptions today. It could be easy to think the worst of people. They could just see the world in a different way from you. If you aren’t sure how to handle them, trying to talk things through may help. Stay focused.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Productivity is encouraged. You don’t need to complete every task, but making to-do lists and paying the bills will clear some space. Working on your to-do list as you make it can help. Feeling like you’ve achieved something with your day can inspire you to keep moving.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You could be full of bright ideas just now. It would be a shame to keep them to yourself. Look beyond your usual circle to get the sort of feedback you crave. Your mind probably needs feeding. Once that’s sorted out, you should be able to have more fun with casual conversations or light chit-chat.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Being right doesn’t always make you popular — you might even be a little out of touch. It won’t take much effort to bring yourself up to speed. If people drop by without warning, spending time with them should keep things interesting even if you’re craving some alone time.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be aware of the difference between imagination and reality. Not everything people want to tell you is as important as you might think. Avoid fussing about insignificant things. Focus on what matters. Careful consideration could stop you from suffering information overload.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A practical approach is likely to take you further than fretting over your finances today. This could be an ideal time for analyzing your income. Taking a rational approach is likely to come more easily than usual, and you could reap the rewards for a long time to come.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Not seeing eye to eye with someone close could cause an argument now, but it might have better results than you’d expect. It might be a way of resolving a situation that’s been on your mind for some time. You’re more inclined than usual to speak out. Communicate your needs with clear words.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Learning from past mistakes can create a strong foundation for your future. Don’t let guilt take hold. You might need to make a firm effort to avoid getting bogged down by issues that no longer really matter. It’s understandable to need some space to gather your thoughts.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 14, 1913, labor leader Jimmy Hoffa was born in Brazil, Indiana; college football coach Woody Hayes was born in Clifton, Ohio; broadcaster Mel Allen was born in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1929, the “St. Valentine’s Day Massacre” took place.


In 1967, Aretha Franklin recorded her cover of Otis Redding’s “Respect.”

In 1984, 6-year-old Stormie Jones became the world’s first heart-liver transplant recipient.

In 2013, double-amputee Olympic sprinter Oscar Pistorius shot and killed

his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, at his home in Pretoria, South Africa.

In 2018, a former student opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School near Fort Lauderdale, Florida, killing 17 people in the nation’s deadliest school shooting since the attack in Newtown, Connecticut, more than five years earlier.



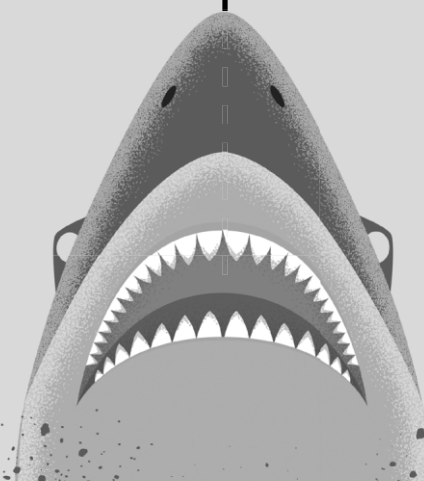
RISK OF PREDIABETES:
1 IN 3 ADULTS




LIFE DOESN'T ALWAYS
GIVE YOU TIME TO
CHANGE THE OUTCOME.

PREDIABETES DOES.

RISK OF
SHARK ATTACK:
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TAKE THE RISK TEST TODAY AT
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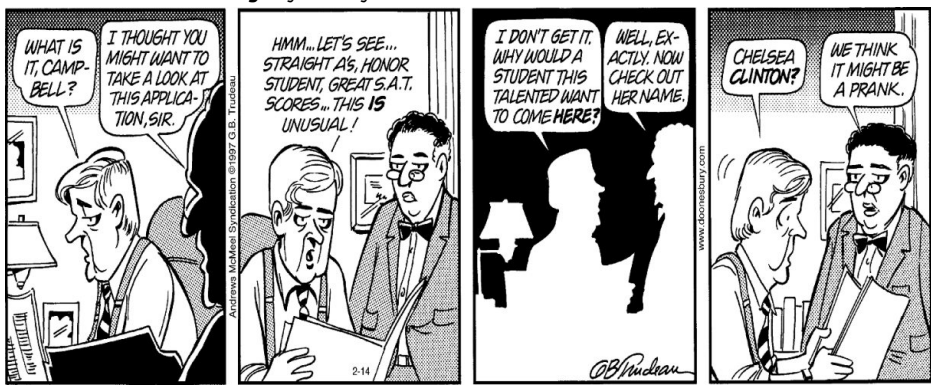


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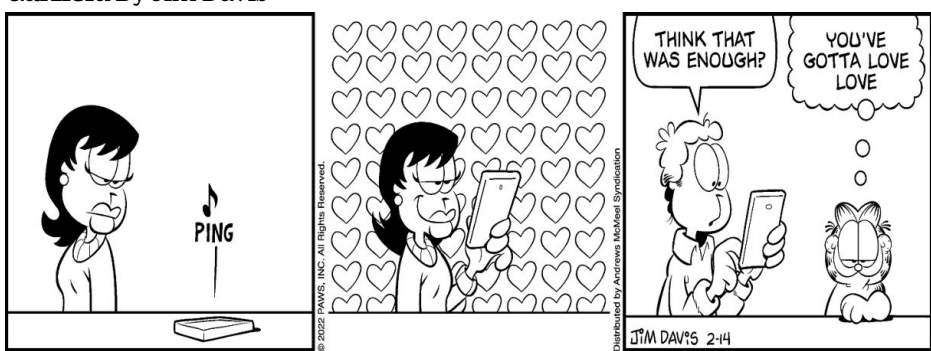
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



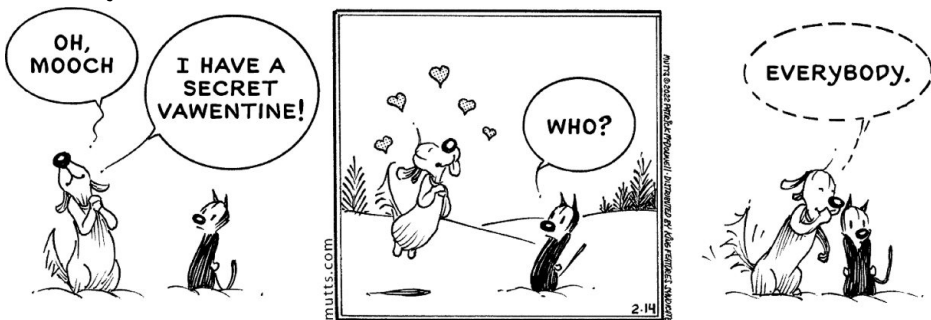
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



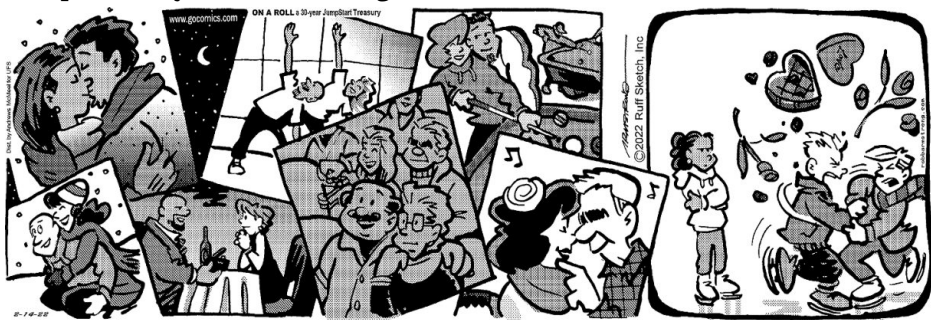
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



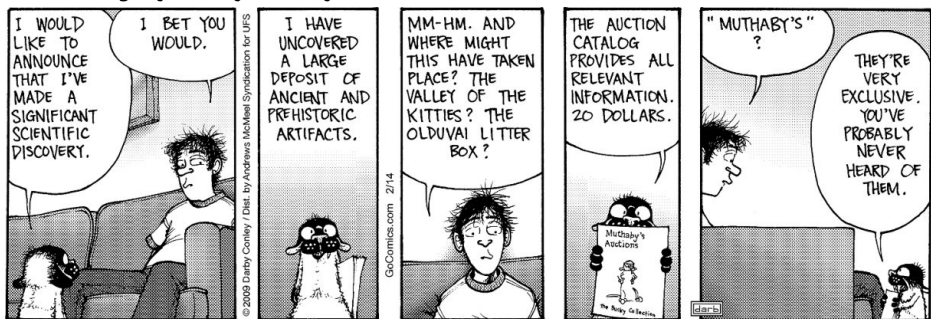
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



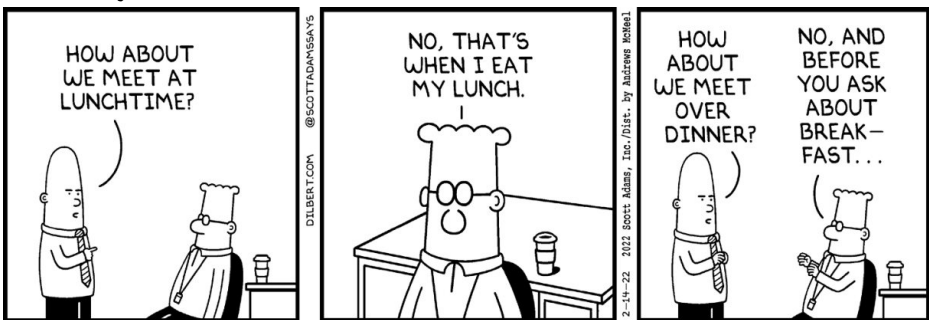
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



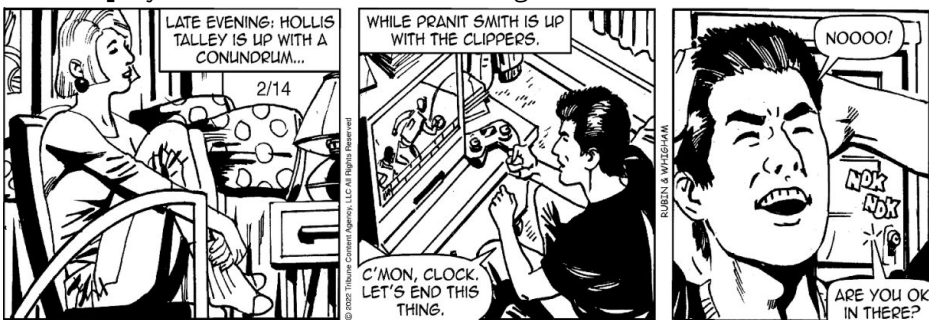
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



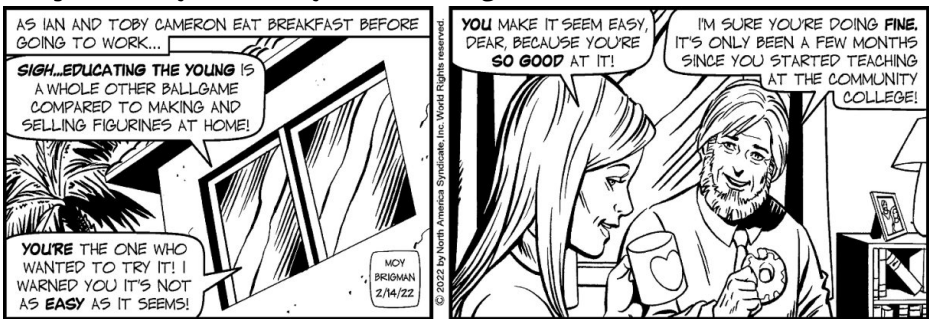
Dilbert By Scott Adams



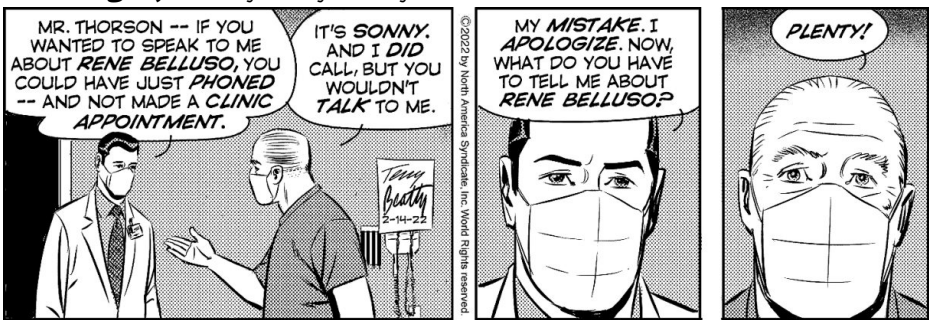
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



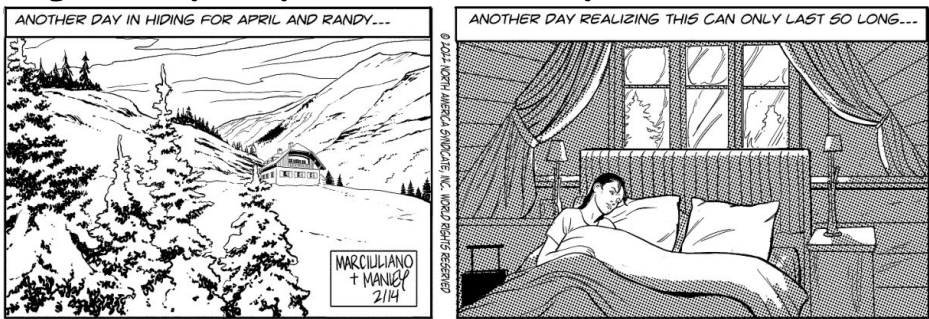
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



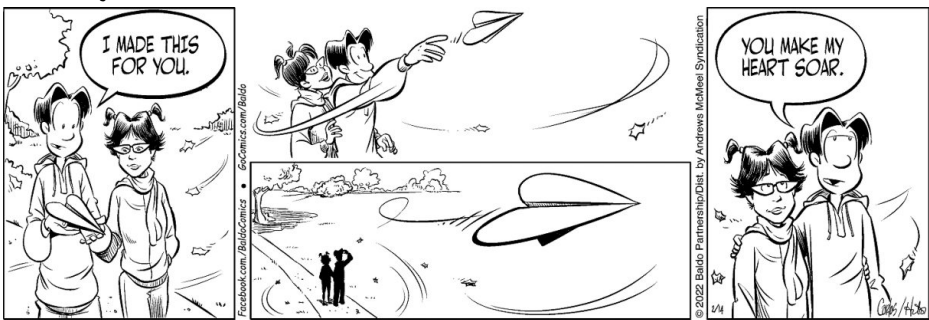
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



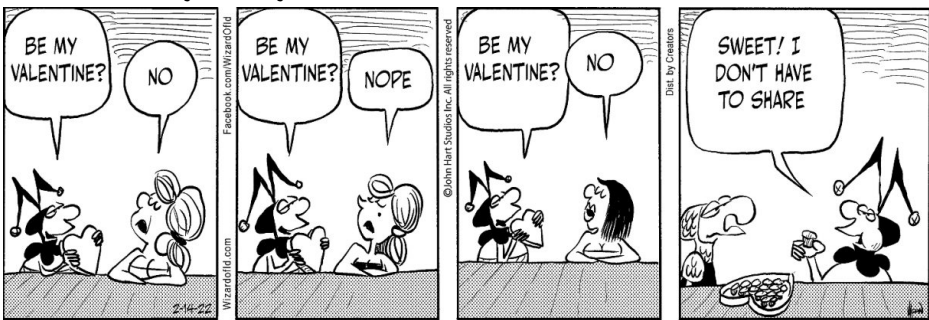
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



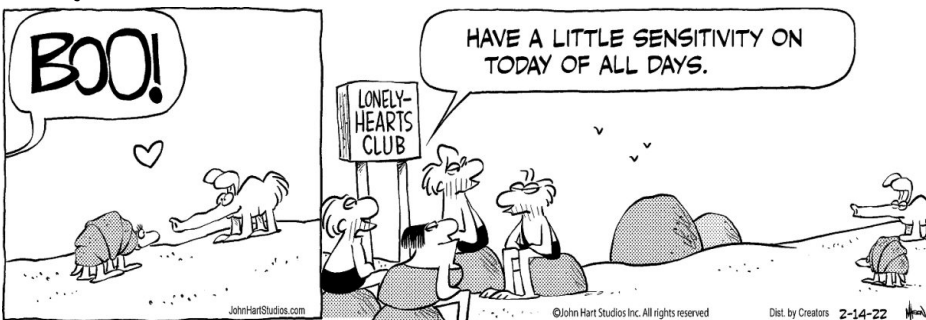
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



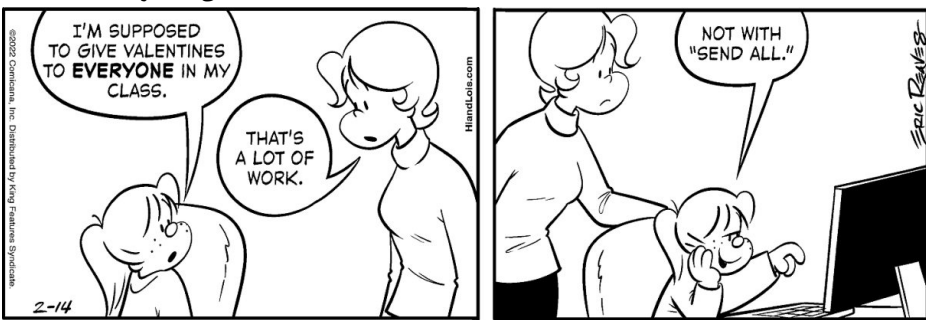
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



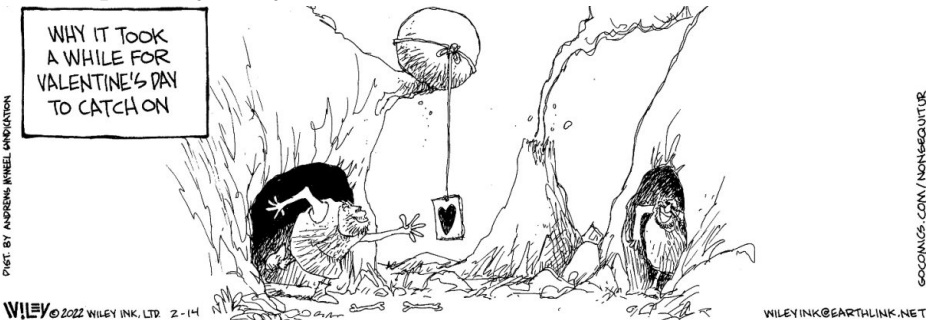
Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Erykah Badu hairdo

5 In pieces

10 The Beatles' Pepper, e.g.: Abbr.

13 Attired

14 Pennsylvania in Washington, for example

15 Couple's pronoun

16 Alliterative union litigator

18 State sch. with campuses in Providence

19 DoorDash rival

20 It follows dawn

22 Ancestry.com concern

23 Wicked one

25 Alliterative craftsman

30 Lawyers: Abbr.

33 To no avail

34 On a cruise, say

36 ___ Tin Tin

37 Discover

38 Word that fittingly fills the blanks in "propria _e"

39 About to explode

41 Rapper ___ Kim

42 "___, Brute?"

44 Nativity display

45 Quite often

47 Alliterative marriage specialist

49 Malodorous

51 One-named "Cheap Thrills" singer

52 '90s trade acronym

54 Rain in light drops

59 NFL's Cardinals

60 Alliterative accompanist

63 Anatomical pouch

64 Being

65 Act the blowhard

66 Civil War nickname

67 Indoor parking lot features

68 Nordstrom rival

10 Music for a movie

11 Trusted adviser

12 Excursion

14 Group co-founded by Bill W.'s wife

17 Merlot or Syrah

21 Acapulco article

23 Big celebration

24 Anger

25 Novelist Cather

26 Negro Leagues legend Buck ___

27 Presidential workplace

28 Patriotic org. since 1890

29 Dead, as an engine

31 Church donation

32 Contemptuous look

35 "Par avion" letters

38 Just slightly

40 "The Crying Game" actor Stephen

43 "Enough!" in a text

44 Happy as a lark?

46 Hanoi holiday

48 \$100 bills, in slang

50 Narrow to a point

52 Astronaut's insignia

53 Speedy steed

54 Barbershop sound

55 Apprehends

56 Actress Sedgwick

57 Plumbing problem

58 Units of work

61 "Be there ___ sec!"

62 Bank convenience, for short

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68

By Paul Coulter Tribune Content Agency 2/14/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 5 4
♥ J 9 7 4
♦ Q 10
♣ K 8 7 2

WEST

♠ A Q 10 9 3 2
♥ Q 8 2
♦ 6 2
♣ 9 3

EAST

♠ 8 7 6
♥ K 6 5 3
♦ J 9
♣ A J 10 4

SOUTH

♠ K
♥ A 10
♦ A K 8 7 5 4 3
♣ K 6 5

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1♦	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

At the second table, where B. Jay Becker and Dorothy Hayden were seated North-South for the U.S., the bidding took a dramatic turn:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1[D]	1[S]	Pass
Pass	2[D]	Pass	Pass
2[S]	Pass	Pass	3[D]
Pass	3NT!		

Hayden's three-notrump call, though highly unusual, was well-judged. With the expected low-spade lead — assuming West had the ace, which seemed likely — she could count nine tricks in notrump.

West led the queen of spades, and Hayden, thanks to her bold bid, eventually finished with 10 tricks to net the American team a gain of 770 points. It is true that, with the jack of spades in the North hand, three notrump could not be defeated with any lead, but getting there was nevertheless a coup of the first order.

Tomorrow: Forewarned is forearmed.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SSOLH

SIYDA

TKNITE

WSLIVE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: MOTTO HONOR EYELID INFORM
Answer: The chef added the aromatic member of the mint family when it was — TIME FOR THYME

TODAY'S SUDOKU

		4	1	3				
	6	7				1	3	
			2					
5	8			1			4	
		4	8		2	1		
3		6			7		8	
				9				
2	8			4		6		
			5	8				

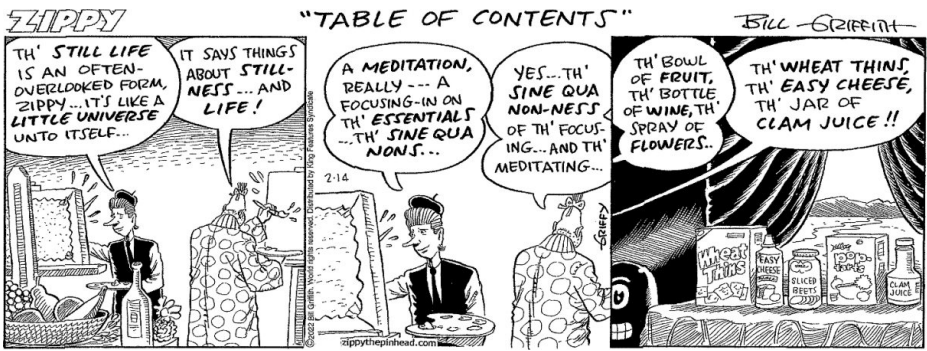
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1	7	9	5	4	2	3	6	8
6	8	4	3	7	1	5	9	2
5	2	3	6	8	9	1	4	7
3	1	7	4	6	8	9	2	5
4	6	2	9	3	5	8	7	1
8	9	5	2	1	7	6	3	4
7	4	6	8	5	3	2	1	9
2	5	1	7	9	6	4	8	3
9	3	8	1	2	4	7	5	6

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

S	T	R	I	P	S		P	A	D	L	O	C	K
T	O	A	T	E	E		S	R	I	R	A	C	H
R	O	W	E	N	A		T	O	N	E	D	E	A
A	T	O	M	S		L	O	U	T		D	A	R
W	H	Y	S		S	O	P	S			N	S	A
H	A	S		E	Q	U	A	T	O	R	S		
A	C	T									R	O	U
T	H	E		Q	U	E	E	N	S		G	A	M
S	E	R	B	I	A		O	P	A	L		A	N
				S	P	L	I	T				F	I
A	K	A				S	H	E	S		M	I	N
L	O	K	I			S	L	I	D		C	O	N
I	R	I	S	S	C	A	N				H	A	V
B	A	T	A	R	A	N	G			O	M	E	L
I	N	A				W	O	R	S	T	S		



BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

10x10 grid with some numbers pre-filled:

				3	6	9			
				8		1			
3				7	9		4		
1	6								4
	9	4					2	8	
8								1	7
		7		6	4				2
				1		3			
		6	2	8					

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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

9x9 grid with numbers pre-filled:

6	9	1	2	8	7	9	8	7
9	7	2	8	9	1	8	7	6
7	8	8	7	9	6	2	1	9
2	1	9	6	7	7	8	9	8
8	8	7	9	1	9	7	6	2
7	6	9	8	2	8	7	9	1
1	9	7	7	6	2	9	8	8
9	7	8	1	7	8	6	2	9
8	7	6	9	8	9	1	7	2

BOGGLE

Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

10x10 grid with letters pre-filled:

L	G	A	B
E	H	O	E
S	U	R	X
K	Y	N	D

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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31-60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11-20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FOUR DOG BREEDS in the grid of letters.

BOXER HOUND HUSKY BEAGLE

WordWheel

WordWheel diagram with letters: C, I, D, U, L, A, I, ?

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: room for more

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

Word search grid:

L	O	B	B	Y	T	T	Q	P	A	A	C	F	P	E	E	K	G
C	P	B	S	V	E	N	O	S	C	U	L	L	E	R	Y	U	Q
H	S	A	L	O	N	H	E	T	B	O	V	A	O	W	N	I	P
A	O	R	M	A	S	Y	R	T	N	A	P	T	A	S	Y	V	S
M	D	N	R	I	T	E	T	O	C	C	C	R	M	D	E	H	S
B	N	A	T	E	L	T	L	A	L	G	D	I	F	E	J	T	E
E	Y	K	R	G	Y	L	I	O	A	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T
R	V	R	N	K	O	O	A	C	S	H	C	R	N	I	B	A	C
S	Z	I	A	Y	R	K	F	X	S	Y	S	O	A	W	Z	N	V
T	W	B	A	R	R	O	Z	O	R	Y	H	T	Y	G	R	X	B
U	U	F	W	O	B	E	O	V	O	M	R	O	U	E	E	D	A
D	E	Y	O	Y	C	I	L	M	O	J	O	G	M	D	H	Q	T
I	Z	M	E	M	O	D	L	L	M	C	V	O	E	E	Y	T	H
O	Y	R	F	L	E	B	O	H	A	L	L	E	R	R	R	A	R
G	A	R	R	E	T	C	F	U	C	G	G	G	S	Y	Y	Q	O
C	C	O	M	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T	P	B	T	A	F	O
S	S	F	G	A	W	I	K	X	L	F	Y	P	U	X	R	L	M
T	P	R	I	V	Y	Y	H	X	L	G	H	G	K	G	H	Y	P

APARTMENT	COMPARTMENT	KEEP	SHOP
ATTIC	COTE	LIBRARY	SNUG
BARN	DARKROOM	LOBBY	STUDIO
BATHROOM	LOFT	STUDY	WARD
BELFRY	FLAT	MILL	VESTRY
CABIN	FOYER	PANTRY	WING
CELL	GALLERY	PLAYROOM	
CHAMBER	GARAGE	PRIVY	
CLASSROOM	GARRET	SALON	
CLOAKROOM	HALL	SCULLERY	
CLOSET	HOME	SHED	

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10x10 crossword grid with numbers 1-47.

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/21/16

ACROSS

- 1 Sellers or Finch
- 6 Series for Matt Jones
- 9 Fibromyalgia symptoms
- 10 "The ___"; movie for Dennis Quaid and Billy Bob Thornton
- 12 "___ You Glad You're You?"; "Sesame Street" song
- 13 "___ Night Lights"
- 14 Carpet
- 15 Damon or Dillon
- 16 Group of eight
- 19 "One ___ Hill"
- 23 "___ Man Standing"
- 24 Singer Horne
- 25 "Malcolm in the ___"
- 28 Actor Sutherland
- 30 Snatch
- 31 Beatles movie
- 32 "___ of Honor"; Patrick Dempsey film
- 33 "___ Eye"; movie for Shia LaBeouf
- 34 Actor Calhoun
- 36 Shade tree
- 39 "___ Town"; Courteney Cox series

10x10 grid with letters pre-filled:

P	E	T	E	R		M	O	M	
A	C	H	E	S		A	L	A	M
A	R	E	N	T		F	R	I	D
R	U	G			M	A	T	T	
			O	C	T	E	T		T
			L	A	S	T		L	E
M	I	D	D	L	E		K	I	E
G	R	A	B		H	E	L	P	
M	A	D	E		E	A	G	L	E
			R	O	R	Y		O	A
C	O	U	G	A	R		H	A	P
B	U	R	S	T		O	I	L	E
S	T	E				G	R	E	T

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8/21/16

DOWN

- 42 "___ Days"
- 44 Explode
- 45 Refueling ship
- 46 Sault ___ Marie
- 47 Garbo or Van Susteren
- 1 Early "Tonight Show" host
- 2 Liege
- 3 Series for Troy Gentile
- 4 Suffix for velvet or eight
- 5 Q's followers
- 6 "___ About You"
- 7 Tumor suffix
- 8 Matthew of "2 Broke Girls"
- 10 Mr. Linkletter
- 11 "___, Big World"
- 13 "My Big ___ Greek Wedding"
- 15 "How I ___ Your Mother"
- 17 Baseball's Ripken
- 18 Poet Eliot's monogram
- 20 "The ___"; movie for Denis Leary and Kevin Spacey
- 21 180° from WSW
- 22 In one ___ and out the other
- 25 "The Wizard of Oz" production co.
- 26 Tax-deferred retirement acct.
- 27 "Major ___"
- 28 Beer barrel
- 29 "___ Fly Away"
- 31 Mister Ed's dinner
- 33 Goof
- 35 Cereal grain
- 37 In ___; sulking
- 38 Actress Sedgwick
- 39 "___ Evening News with Scott Pelley"
- 40 "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me ___ of Here!"
- 41 Suffix for press or architect
- 42 Greedy one
- 43 "___ Force One"; Harrison Ford movie

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

Arrow words grid with clues and circled letters:

Marshy inlet	Quitter's cry	Joust verbally	Large-scale	Affirm	Ice cream parlor order	Words to live by	Authorize
1	Applaud	Chest muscle	Public speaking	Hacker	2		
Welded together	Pundit	Laughfest	Use a trawl	Plum's center	Just beat		
3							
Tie	Way to go	Sink or swim, e.g.	Memorial Day solo	Slimeball	Sample Aware of		
4							
Last letter	5						
6							
7	Undergrad degrees	8	Over there	9			

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4/19/20

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES

Maze puzzle.

Find 6 differences puzzle between two mermaid illustrations.

Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL UCONN 63, ST. JOHN'S 60

Martin clutch as UConn holds off St. John's

By Shreyas Laddha

NEW YORK — Tyrese Martin sauntered over to midcourt, grinning ear to ear, raised a finger to his mouth and shushed the St. John's faithful at Madison Square Garden. The guard had just hit his third 3 in a little over two minutes, with the last one putting UConn up by three with 12:49 to play. It was

just that kind of day for Martin. The Huskies, led by Martin's 17 second-half points, defeated St. John's 63-60 on Sunday afternoon. Guard R.J Cole added in 14 points and Isaiah Whaley did all the little things with 11 points, seven rebounds and five blocks.

Turn to Men, Page 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL UCONN 72, MARQUETTE 58

Huskies pull away in 4th to defeat Golden Eagles

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

MILWAUKEE — Very little has come easy for No. 8 UConn this season, including Sunday's matchup at Marquette where the team — still without starters Olivia Nelson-Ododa and Caroline Ducharme — faced a two-point deficit going into the fourth

against a tough, disciplined Golden Eagles squad. Luckily for the Huskies, they saved their best for last. UConn outscored Marquette 27-11 in the fourth to come away with a 72-58 road victory behind huge afternoons from

Turn to Women, Page 4



Hollywood ending



Cooper Kupp hauls in the game-winning TD pass from Matthew Stafford with 1:25 left to lift the Rams over the Bengals 23-20 in Super Bowl 56 at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. **MATT ROURKE/AP**

Stafford, Kupp rally Rams to win home Super Bowl in LA

By Barry Wilner | Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — In a venue built for champions, the Rams carried off the crown jewel: a Super Bowl trophy. It took a precise 79-yard drive capped by Matthew Stafford's 1-yard TD pass to Cooper Kupp with 1:25 remaining for a 23-20 victory Sunday over the Bengals to give the Rams their first NFL title since the 1999 season — and their first representing Los Angeles since 1951.

They did it in their home, the \$5 billion SoFi Stadium, making the Rams the second consecutive host to win the championship. Kupp had four receptions for 39 yards on the championship drive and earned Super Bowl MVP honors. Even with that brilliant, decisive march to the Lombardi Trophy, it was LA's "fearsome fivesome" that made the difference. Led by Aaron Donald and Von Miller, they sacked Joe Burrow a Super Bowl record-tying seven times.

More coverage inside, Page 7

- Family connections still can make an enormous difference in the highly competitive world of NFL coaching. Super Bowl 56 had plenty of examples.
- NBC broadcaster Cris Collinsworth called his fifth Super Bowl on Sunday. It came 33 years after he played in the game for the second time as a receiver with the Bengals.
- Sean McVay is only 36, but he's now coached the Rams in two Super Bowls. Ahead of the Rams' victory over the Bengals, McVay was willing to admit he's already pondered a future after his days roaming the sidelines are over.

Did you know?

On average, 65 % of adverse weather-related fatalities happened between November and April, with rain/wet conditions more frequently reported than snow/icy conditions.

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Florida	47	32	10	5	69	194	139			
Tampa Bay	48	31	11	6	68	163	136			
Toronto	45	30	12	3	63	161	123			
Boston	46	27	16	3	57	135	130			
Detroit	49	22	21	6	50	140	167			
Ottawa	45	17	24	4	38	122	145			
Buffalo	47	15	24	8	38	125	164			
Montreal	48	8	33	7	23	106	191			
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Pittsburgh	49	30	11	8	68	164	128			
Carolina	46	32	11	3	67	161	109			
N.Y. Rangers	47	30	13	4	64	145	122			
Washington	50	26	15	9	61	162	141			
Columbus	46	23	22	1	47	147	167			
N.Y. Islanders	42	17	19	6	40	102	116			
New Jersey	49	17	27	5	39	143	176			
Philadelphia	47	15	24	8	38	118	162			

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Colorado	46	34	8	4	72	190	131			
Minnesota	43	29	11	3	61	164	124			
Nashville	48	28	16	4	60	149	134			
St. Louis	46	27	14	5	59	162	129			
Dallas	46	25	19	2	52	137	141			
Winnipeg	45	20	17	8	48	130	134			
Chicago	48	17	24	7	41	117	162			
Arizona	48	12	32	4	28	108	180			
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Vegas	48	28	17	3	59	162	143			
Calgary	45	26	13	6	58	152	108			
Los Angeles	47	24	16	7	55	136	130			
Anaheim	49	23	17	9	55	144	141			
Edmonton	45	24	18	3	51	146	147			
Vancouver	49	22	21	6	50	126	135			
San Jose	46	22	20	4	48	126	142			
Seattle	48	16	28	4	36	127	167			

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Buffalo 5, Montreal 3
Ottawa 4, Washington 1
Pittsburgh 4, New Jersey 2
Colorado 4, Dallas 0

MONDAY'S GAMES

Detroit at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Chicago at Winnipeg, 9p.m.
Toronto at Seattle, 9p.m.
Edmonton at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.
St. Louis at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7p.m.
Washington at Nashville, 8p.m.
Columbus at Calgary, 9p.m.
Dallas at Colorado, 9p.m.
Edmonton at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Minnesota at Winnipeg, 7p.m.
Florida at Carolina, 7:30p.m.
Anaheim at Calgary, 9:30p.m.
Colorado at Vegas, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit 4, Philadelphia 2
Boston 2, Ottawa 0
Columbus 2, Montreal 1
Vancouver 3, Toronto 2
Winnipeg 5, Nashville 2
St. Louis 5, Chicago 1
Minnesota 3, Carolina 2
Calgary 5, N.Y. Islanders 2

GOAL-ENDING VICTORY LEADERS

GOALTENDER	TEAM	W	L	O
Freerik Anderson	Car	25	7	1
Andrei Vasilevskiy	TB	25	8	4
Tristan Jarry	Pit	25	8	6
through Sunday				

NFL: SUPER BOWL 56

Sunday at Sofi Stadium, Inglewood, Calif.
No. 4 L.A. Rams (15-5) vs. No. 4 Cincinnati (13-7), late

SUPER BOWL MVP'S

2021: Tom Brady, QB, Tampa Bay
2020: Patrick Mahomes, QB, Kansas City
2019: Julian Edelman, WR, New England
2018: Nick Foles, QB, Philadelphia
2017: Tom Brady, QB, New England
2016: Von Miller, LB, Denver
2015: Tom Brady, QB, New England
2014: Malcolm Smith, LB, Seattle
2013: Joe Flacco, QB, Baltimore
2012: Eli Manning, QB, N.Y. Giants
2011: Aaron Rodgers, QB, Green Bay
2010: Drew Brees, QB, New Orleans
2009: Santonio Holmes, WR, Pittsburgh
2008: Eli Manning, QB, N.Y. Giants
2007: Peyton Manning, QB, Indianapolis
2006: Hines Ward, WR, Pittsburgh
2005: Deion Branch, WR, New England
2004: Tom Brady, QB, New England
2003: Dexter Jackson, FS, Tampa Bay
2002: Tom Brady, QB, New England
2001: Ray Lewis, LB, Baltimore
2000: Kurt Warner, QB, St. Louis
1999: John Elway, QB, Denver
1998: Terrell Davis, RB, Denver
1997: Desmond Howard, KR, Green Bay
1996: Larry Brown, CB, Dallas
1995: Steve Young, QB, San Francisco
1994: Emmitt Smith, RB, Dallas
1993: Troy Aikman, QB, Dallas
1992: Mark Ryplen, QB, Washington
1991: Ottis Anderson, RB, N.Y. Giants
1990: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco
1989: Jerry Rice, WR, San Francisco
1988: Doug Williams, QB, Washington
1987: Phil Simms, QB, N.Y. Giants
1986: Richard Dent, DE, Chicago
1985: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco
1984: Marcus Allen, RB, L.A. Raiders
1983: John Riggins, RB, Washington
1982: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco
1981: Jim Plunkett, QB, Oakland
1980: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh
1979: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh
1978: Randy White, DT, Dallas and Harvey Martin, DE, Dallas
1977: Fred Biletnikoff, WR, Oakland
1976: Lynn Swann, WR, Pittsburgh
1975: Franco Harris, RB, Pittsburgh
1974: Larry Csonka, RB, Miami
1973: Jake Scott, S, Miami
1972: Roger Staubach, QB, Dallas
1971: Chuck Howley, LB, Dallas
1970: Len Dawson, QB, Kansas City
1969: Joe Namath, QB, N.Y. Jets
1968: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay
1967: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	MONDAY
at NC Wilmington	13	William & Mary		
UMBC	3	at New Hampshire		
at St. Bonaventure	1½	Saint Louis		
at Austin Peay	13	Eastern Illinois		
at Delaware	5½	JMU		
at Virginia Tech	6	Virginia		
Cleveland State	1½	at Fort Wayne		
at Fairfield	6½	Canisius		
at Kansas State	3	West Virginia		
at Leligh	5	Bucknell		
at Marist	4½	Niagara		
at Charleston (SC)	4½	Drexel		
at Coppin State	7½	N.C. Central		
at UCF	7½	Tulsa		
at Davidson	14½	Duquesne		
W. Kentucky	11½	at Southern Miss		
N. Colorado	1	Southern Utah		
at Illinois-Chicago	16½	IUPUI		
at Creighton	12	Georgetown		
at Alabama State	11½	Miss. Valley St.		
Dayton	2	at Rhode Island		
at Kansas	11	Oklahoma State		
at Oregon	3½	Washington State		

NBA

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG	MONDAY
at Washington	4	(217½)	Detroit	
at New York	8	(205½)	Okla. City	
San Jose	4	(224)	at Brooklyn	
at Milwaukee	14½	(232)	Portland	
at Chicago	5	(233½)	San Antonio	
Toronto	3½	(221½)	at New Orleans	
at Utah	13½	(229)	Houston	
at Denver	10½	(224½)	at Orlando	
Golden State	5½	(222½)	at LA Clippers	

NHL

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE	MONDAY
at Minnesota	-235	Detroit	+190	
Toronto	-215	at Seattle	+176	
at Winnipeg	-164	Chicago	+136	
Edmonton	-150	at San Jose	+125	

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	34	22	.607	—
Boston	33	25	.569	2
Toronto	31	24	.564	2½
Brooklyn	29	27	.518	5
New York	25	32	.439	9½

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	37	20	.649	—
Charlotte	29	29	.500	8½
Atlanta	26	30	.464	10½
Washington	25	30	.455	11
Orlando	13	45	.224	24½

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	36	21	.632	—
Cleveland	35	22	.614	1
Milwaukee	35	22	.614	1
Indiana	19	39	.328	17½
Detroit	12	44	.214	23½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	40	18	.690	—
Dallas	33	24	.579	6½
New Orleans	22	34	.393	17
San Antonio	22	35	.386	17½
Houston	15	40	.273	23½

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	35	21	.625	—
Denver	31	25	.554	4
Minnesota	30	27	.526	5½
Portland	23	34	.404	12½
Oklahoma City	17	39	.304	18

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	46	10	.821	—
Golden State	42	15	.737	4½
L.A. Clippers	28	30	.483	19
L.A. Lakers	26	31	.456	20½
Sacramento	22	36	.379	25

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 105, Atlanta 95
Minnesota 129, Indiana 120

MONDAY'S GAMES

Detroit at Washington, 7p.m.
Oklahoma City at New York, 7:30p.m.
Sacramento at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Portland at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
San Antonio at Chicago, 8p.m.
Toronto at New Orleans, 8p.m.
Houston at Utah, 9p.m.
Orlando at Denver, 9p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 10:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Boston at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Dallas at Miami, 7:30p.m.
Charlotte at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
Memphis at New Orleans, 8p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at Orlando, 7p.m.
Brooklyn at New York, 7:30p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Washington at Indiana, 7:30p.m.
Portland at Memphis, 8p.m.
Sacramento at Chicago, 8p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
Toronto at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Houston at Phoenix, 9p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 10p.m.
Utah at L.A. Lakers, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Portland 112, New York 103
San Antonio 124, New Orleans 114
Sacramento 123, Washington 110
Memphis 125, Charlotte 118
Denver 110, Toronto 109
Philadelphia 103, Cleveland 93
Chicago 106, Oklahoma City 101
Miami 115, Brooklyn 111
L.A. Clippers 99, Dallas 97
Phoenix 132, Orlando 105
Golden State 117, L.A. Lakers 115

GOLF

PGA PHOENIX OPEN

4th of 4 rds, TPC Scottsdale, Stadium, Scottsdale, Ariz., 7,261 yards; Par: 71
x-won on the third playoff hole
268 (-16) \$1,476,000
x-Scottie Scheffler (500) 68-71-62-67
268 (-16) \$893,800
Patrick Cantlay (300) 67-66-68-67
269 (-15) \$434,600
Xander Schauffele (145) 67-65-69-68
Sahithi Theegala (145) 66-64-69-70
Brooks Koepka (145) 66-66-68-69
270 (-14) \$287,000
Billy Horschel (95) 67-69-68-66
Alex Noren (95) 67-68-67-68
271 (-13) \$248,050
Justin Thomas (83) 67-70-68-66
Hideki Matsuyama (83) 68-68-66-69
272 (-12) \$198,850
Jon Rahm (68) 67-70-68-67
Patton Kizzire (68) 71-65-68-68
Matt Fitzpatrick (68) 70-68-67-67
Keith Mitchell (68) 69-69-66-68
273 (-11) \$133,250
Martin Laird (51) 70-67-69-67
Brian Harman (51) 68-68-70-67
Chris Kirk (51) 70-66-69-68
Bubba Watson (51) 67-69-68-69
Louis Oosthuizen (51) 67-70-67-69
Tom Hoge (51) 69-66-67-71
Max Homa (51) 69-65-68-71
274 (-10) \$96,350
Scott Stallings (42) 67-70-68-69
Garrick Higgo (42) 70-69-64-71
275 (-9) \$79,130
Sam Ryder (37) 72-64-71-68
Sebastian Munoz (37) 70-67-70-68
J.T. Poston (37) 69-66-70-70
276 (-8) \$58,630
Si Woo Kim (30) 70-68-71-67
Cameron Young (30) 68-69-72-67
Keegan Bradley (30) 68-68-74-66
Brendon Todd (30) 68-69-67-72
Sung Kang (30) 70-70-71-65
Adam Hadwin (30) 66-68-68-74
Talon Gooch (30) 70-64-67-75
277 (-7) \$45,715
Russell Knox (22) 72-68-67-70
Russell Henley (22) 71-69-68-69
Cory Ost (22) 69-67-74-67
Rory Sabbatini (22) 69-68-67-73
278 (-6) \$40,590
Lucas Glover (19) 73-65-70-70
279 (-5) \$35,670
Corey Connors (16) 72-66-69-72
Troy Merritt (16) 72-67-68-72
Adam Scott (16) 68-70-69-72
K.H. Lee (16) 65-70-74-70
Kevin Kisner (16) 67-69-74-69
280 (-4) \$26,705
Stewart Cink (11) 67-71-70-72
Zach Johnson (11) 69-70-69-72
Kevin Chappell (11) 70-69-68-73
Martin Trairner (11) 71-69-68-72
Abraham Ancer (11) 68-67-71-74
Francesco Molinari (11) 70-69-73-68
281 (-3) \$20,869
Ryan Moore (8) 69-71-68-73
Branden Grace (8) 68-69-72-72
Doug Ghim (8) 69-71-72-69
Harry Higgs (8) 66-72-76-67
282 (-2) \$19,303
Kraef Hickok (6) 70-67-72-72
Joseph Bramlett (6) 73-66-71-72
Bruce Garnett (6) 69-69-74-70
Luke List (6) 73-66-73-70
Kevin Tway (6) 68-70-75-69
283 (-1) \$18,696
Brian Stuard (5) 71-69-68-75
Matt Jones (5) 72-68-72-71
284 (even) \$18,368
Jordan Spieth (5) 70-69-72-73
Hudson Swafford (5) 71-69-71-73
285 (+1) \$18,040
Stephan Jaeger (5) 73-67-72-73
Joel Dahmen (5) 71-69-74-71
286 (+2) \$17,794
Austin Eckroat (0) 70-69-69-78
287 (+3) \$17,630
Peter Malnati (4) 69-71-75-72
291 (+7) \$17,466
Sepp Straka (4) 72-68-73-78
293 (+9) \$17,302
Charley Hoffman (4) 67-72-73-75

RAS AL KHAIMAH CLASSIC

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday: vs. Seton Hall
at Gampel, 8:30 p.m., CBSN

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: at Xavier, 7 p.m., SNY

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CELTICS 105, HAWKS 95

Celtics rally for 8th win in row

By Doug Alden
Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum scored 38 points and led a third-quarter surge that sent the Boston Celtics past the Atlanta Hawks 105-95 Sunday for their eighth straight win. Tatum also had 10 rebounds. Robert Williams added 10 points and 14 boards, Jaylen Brown scored 17 points and Marcus Smart had 13. “We’re just cooking right now,” said Tatum, who had 16 points in the third as the Celtics outscored the Hawks 42-23 in the period. Trae Young had 30 points and 10 assists to lead Atlanta, keeping the Hawks within range until the final few minutes of the fourth quarter. Bogdan Bogdanovic finished with 26 points and Clint Capela pulled down 17 rebounds for the Hawks, who lost for the fourth time in five games. Atlanta held a 10-point lead at halftime but unraveled quickly in the third quarter. “I thought in the third quarter, we got distracted by the offici-

ing. They got into the penalty early, and they had a 42-point quarter,” Atlanta coach Nate McMillan said. “I thought that was the difference in the game. We just were not able to recover from that.” The Celtics, who lost their first two against the Hawks this season, trailed 55-45 at halftime and allowed an early basket by Young to start the third. Boston responded with a 12-0 run and dominated the rest of the period. The Celtics made 13 of 18 shots in the third. Tatum hit a pair of 3-pointers late in the period and adding a dunk with 3 seconds remaining to put the Celtics up 87-78. Tatum wasn’t done. After the Hawks pulled within 89-84, Tatum hit a turnaround jumper, then another 3-pointer to stretch the lead back to 94-84 with 6:32 left and prompted the Hawks to call a timeout. The break didn’t slow down Boston, which forced a miss by Young under the basket and got another 3-pointer by Grant

Williams from in front of the Atlanta bench. The Celtics were able to hold a wide lead the rest of the way. Although the Hawks held Boston to only 18 points in the fourth, Atlanta scored just 17 in the final period. “We played really good defense until that third quarter,” Young said. “We’ve just got to stay solid throughout the four quarters, and we’ve got to do a little bit better offensively, especially down the stretch.” The Celtics’ streak is by far the longest under first-year coach Ime Udoka, whose patience was tested a few times during the early months of the season. Brown said the team’s chemistry has been fine all along and it’s the Celtics’ overall play that has improved. “We definitely lost some games we felt like we shouldn’t have lost early in the season. Now we get the chance to play some of these teams again and we’re looking to pull out some wins,” Brown said.



UConn’s Tyrese Martin defends the basket Sunday against St. John’s. Martin scored 17 second-half points, hitting 4 of 6 3-pointers. **SETH WENIG/AP**

Men

from Page 1

With a chance to tie the score at 63-all, the Red Storm’s Aaron Wheeler missed the 3 to end the game. With 21 seconds left in the game, Martin hit a layup on an offensive rebound to put UConn up 61-57. Immediately afterward, Wheeler answered with a 3 to cut the lead to 61-60 with 14.3 seconds to go. Cole was fouled on the inbounds pass and hit both free throws in the one and one opportunity. The second half belonged to Martin. After scoring zero points in the first half, he hit 4-for-6 from beyond the arc. As his teammates struggled on the offensive end, it was Martin who kept UConn afloat in the game. Overall he shot 6-for-13 and pulled down eight rebounds. “I was making sure I came out being aggressive,” he said. “I let the game come to me in the second half. From tipoff, sophomore Andre Jackson made his presence felt on the court. With Adama Sanogo in foul trouble early, Jackson did a little bit of everything in the first half. He controlled the pace, led fast-break opportunities and secured key rebounds. Even when he committed two turnovers, it was because he tried to pass the ball in tight spots. He had five points, eight rebounds and two assists at the half and finished with 16 rebounds for the game. The No. 24 Huskies (17-7, 8-5 Big East) moved into third place in the conference behind Providence and Villanova. UConn finished off a hectic week with two victories (Marquette and St. John’s) and one loss (Xavier) against conference opponents. St. John’s is now 13-11 and 5-8 in the conference.

UConn coach Dan Hurley felt good about the win. “This was our fourth game in eight days and three of them are on the road, one of them was 36 hours ago. I was just really proud of the guys the way we won and our defense today,” he said. Red Storm guard Posh Alexander was a game-time decision with an ankle injury but ultimately missed the game. Madison Square Garden was filled with a healthy amount of UConn fans, and at one point in the second half a, “let’s go Huskies” chant broke out. “It felt good to hear them make a 3, and then I came and made a 3,” Martin said. “It was like the same crowd; it got loud again. So, I was like, wow, guess they’re going for us in the Garden. It felt good in the Garden and to perform in front of fans. Last year, we played in the Big East Tournament with not as much fans, but today it felt great.” Sanogo scored the Huskies’ first six points. At the 13:52 mark, he missed a fast-break layup, and a trailing Jackson came in to secure the second-chance opportunity with a putback dunk to put UConn up 11-9. At 13:10, the Red Storm’s Montez Mathis dunked on the Huskies’ Samson Johnson, leading to some trash talk. Mathis and UConn’s Martin were both given technicals. With a little less than 10 minutes in the half, Sanogo received his second foul. This was the second straight game where the forward found himself in early foul trouble. Cole led UConn with 10 points at the half. The Huskies played tough defense, limiting the Red Storm to 13-for-38 first-half shooting (34.2%). Typically, UConn has a significant advantage in the rebounding margin, but St. John’s did a good job boxing out

and being physical on the glass in the first half. The Huskies had 23 rebounds to the Red Storm’s 22 as UConn went into the half with a 30-29 lead. At 14:53 of the second half, Martin hit a 3 to put UConn up 37-36. On the next possession, St. John’s Julian Champagnie answered with a 3 of his own. Martin then went right back and hit another 3. A couple of possessions later, he hit another 3. Every time it seemed the Huskies would hit a big shot, the Red Storm would answer with one of their own. The Huskies led 45-44 when a media timeout was taken at 11:21. A little later, St. John’s went on an 8-0 run to take a 52-48 lead, which prompted a UConn timeout.

UConn 63, ST. JOHN'S 60										
UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT			
Martin	25	6-13	1-2	8	1	3	17			
Cole	37	4-13	4-4	2	5	3	14			
Whaley	31	5-6	1-1	7	0	1	11			
Sanogo	22	4-13	0-2	6	0	3	8			
Jackson	29	2-3	0-0	16	4	4	5			
Polley	20	2-8	0-0	1	1	0	5			
Hawkins	18	1-8	0-0	6	1	2	3			
Gaffney	15	0-2	0-0	1	2	0	0			
Johnson	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0			
TOTALS	—	24-66	6-9	52	14	17	63			
Three-point goals: 9-25, 36.0 (Martin 4-6, Cole 2-7, Jackson 1-2, Hawkins 1-4, Polley 1-5, Gaffney 0-1). FG pct.: 36.4. FT pct.: 66.7. Team rebounds: 5. Turnovers: 15 (Jackson 5, Sanogo 3, Whaley 2, Hawkins 2, Cole, Polley, Team). Blocks: 13 (Whaley 5, Martin 2, Sanogo 2, Hawkins 2, Jackson, Polley). Steals: 5 (Whaley 3, Martin, Polley).										
St. John's	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT			
Champagnie	37	6-16	0-1	11	2	0	13			
Wheeler	28	5-18	2-4	4	2	2	13			
Addae-Wusu	31	5-11	1-2	7	5	1	12			
Smith	31	2-10	0-0	2	3	1	6			
Soriano	19	1-3	0-0	5	1	3	2			
Mathis	20	5-6	4-5	2	2	3	14			
Coburn	16	0-5	0-0	2	1	2	0			
Nyiwe	15	0-1	0-0	4	1	2	0			
Stanley	3	0-1	0-1	1	0	0	0			
TOTALS	—	24-71	7-13	41	17	14	60			
Three-point goals: 5-21, 23.8 (Smith 2-5, Champagnie 1-3, Addae-Wusu 1-3, Wheeler 1-7, Coburn 0-3). FG pct.: 33.8. FT pct.: 53.8. Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 8 (Addae-Wusu 2, Soriano 2, Champagnie, Smith, Coburn, Nyiwe). Blocks: 9 (Soriano 3, Nyiwe 2, Champagnie, Wheeler, Smith, Coburn). Steals: 5 (Addae-Wusu 3, Wheeler, Coburn).										
UConn	30	33	—	63						
St. John's	29	31	—	60						
Officials: Simpson, Roberts, Driscoll. Att.: 6,567 at Madison Square Garden, New York, N.Y.										

Women

from Page 1

freshman Azzi Fudd and graduate student Dorka Juhász, who combined for 45 points. The Huskies (17-5, 11-1 Big East) trailed by two going into the fourth but pulled ahead thanks to their best defensive effort of the day and a late outburst initiated by Fudd. The star freshman, who finished with 24 points, used an 8-0 individual spurt featuring a pair of 3s midway through the fourth to give UConn a double-figure lead for good. Six games back from an extended absence due to a foot injury, Fudd, who hit 4 of 6 from 3 and shot 9 for 15 overall, has now scored at least 24 points in three of the last four games. Redshirt senior Evina Westbrook made some timely plays as well, including two layups to add to UConn’s decisive 12-0 run, and finished with 15 points, while Christyn Williams chipped in 10.

The fourth-quarter scoring outburst came as UConn combined for just 25 points across the second and third quarters against a stingy Marquette defense that rebounds well on both ends.

“It’s not easy getting easy shots against [Marquette],” coach Geno Auriemma said. “But lately, we’ve played some terrific fourth quarters and because our defense has been really good, it’s led to really good offense.”

UConn started hot from 3, where it made 5 of 7 in the first quarter, but its defense was “weak” to Auriemma and couldn’t contain Marquette inside the arc or on the glass. The Golden Eagles used a 9-2 run to jump ahead by seven before Williams and Westbrook hit back to back 3s to cut the deficit to 21-20 at the end of the first.

Even as the Huskies improved defensively and on the boards in the second, offense was still tough to come by. Juhász, who scored 21 points, tied things at 25 and then 27 before Westbrook’s steal and score briefly gave UConn a 29-27 lead. Marquette’s Liza Karlen answered with a couple of layups before Juhász’s lay-in with 2 seconds remaining sent the Huskies into the locker room with the score tied. The graduate transfer had 12 points at the half, where the team as a whole was making just one-third of its attempts from inside the arc and was outscored in the paint 18-8.

Missed layups were an issue most of the game, as UConn failed to convert 11 of 24 attempts. “I’m nauseous just thinking about it,” Auriemma said. Fudd got going with eight of UConn’s 14 points in a back-and-forth third quarter where neither team led by more than one possession. Jordan King’s layup gave the Golden Eagles a 47-45 lead heading into the fourth.

UConn used a 9-2 run to start the final frame with baskets from four players to crawl ahead by five with 6:42 to play, its biggest lead of the game to that point. Marquette pulled within three, but Fudd rattled off eight quick points to push the Huskies’ advantage to 11 with 3:53 to go. Westbrook’s pair of layups increased the lead to 15 with 2:22 to play, capping a 12-0 run in all and effectively putting the game away.

“When you start scoring and you go up six, eight, it puts a lot of pressure on the other team in a close game like this, where now they have to make shots,” Auriemma said. “They’re not a team that’s in a rush, so if you make them speed up a little bit, it’s a little bit to your advantage.”

The Huskies forced seven turnovers in the fourth, and Marquette only attempted six shots while being held scoreless for 4:20.

“It took us a while to lock into that rhythm that they had. And by the time we got to the fourth quarter we had a pretty good idea of what we needed to do [defensively],” Auriemma said.

Asked to step up with the absence of Nelson-Ododa,



UConn’s Dorka Juhász blocks a shot by Marquette’s Lauren Van Kleunen. Juhász had 21 points, four rebounds, four assists, one block and one steal. **MARK HOFFMAN/AP**

Juhász capped her afternoon with her third 3 of the day (on five attempts) with 18 seconds remaining. It was the most she’s hit in a game at UConn, and ensured she’d finish with back-to-back 20 point games for the first time this season. She did a little of everything else too with four rebounds, four assists, one block and one steal.

“Having Dorka really makes a difference because she’s comfortable taking that shot [from the arc],” Auriemma said. “It’s added a great dimension to our team that we didn’t have.”

Injury update and notes

Auriemma said that Ducharme (head) has passed “99%” of protocols but “she just still has enough of where she doesn’t feel 100% that it’s not worth taking a chance on.” He added she has check-ups this week but that he’s “optimistic that we can have her [for UConn’s next game] on Friday [at Xavier] if everything goes the way I think it’s going to go.” She has missed the Huskies’ last four games.

Nelson-Ododa (groin) remains day-to-day and has now been sidelined for three games.

Auriemma also provided his pick for the Super Bowl showdown between the Cincinnati Bengals and Los Angeles Rams.

“Unless I have a rooting interest because it’s my team, I’m always a fan of — or if I know somebody on the team — this one for me, it’s like, ‘Where’d they come from? And who said that they were supposed to be in the Super Bowl?’ And this kid [quarterback Joe Burrow], he’s infectious, man. He makes you want to root for them. So I don’t know if they can win, but I’m pulling for the Bengals.”

Class of 2023 commit KK Arnold was in attendance at the Al McGuire Center. Arnold is from nearby Germantown, Wis., and committed to the Huskies in November.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com.

UConn 72, MARQUETTE 58										
UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT			
Fudd	38	9-15	2-2	5	2	1	24			
Juhasz	33	8-15	2-4	4	4	1	21			
Williams	38	4-13	0-0	3	1	1	10			
Edwards	25	1-6	0-0	7	3	2	2			
Muhl	40	0-3	0-0	6	6	3	0			
Westbrook	26	7-10	0-1	1	3	2	15			
TOTALS	—	29-62	4-7	28	19	10	72			
Three-point goals: 10-20, 50.0 (Fudd 4-6, Juhasz 3-5, Williams 2-5, Westbrook 1-2, Muhl 0-2). FG pct.: 46.8. FT pct.: 57.1. Team rebounds: 2. Turnovers: 6 (Juhasz 2, Edwards 2, Fudd, Muhl). Blocks: 2 (Hudd, Juhasz). Steals: 7 (Edwards 2, Westbrook 2, Fudd, Juhasz, Muhl).										
Marquette	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT			
Karlen	35	7-10	1-1	9	1	2	15			
King	38	6-13	1-2	3	5	2	14			
McLaughlin	40	4-13	0-0	0	2	0	10			
Marotta	37	3-3	2-2	9	4	1	8			
Van Kleunen	28	3-10	1-2	7	2	3	7			
Walker	14	0-1	2-2	0	0	1	2			
Myles	5	1-2	0-0	2	0	0	2			
Nkumu	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0			
TOTALS	—	24-52	7-9	33	14	9	58			
Three-point goals: 3-12, 25.0 (McLaughlin 2-9, King 1-2, Van Kleunen 0-1). FG pct.: 46.2. FT pct.: 77.8. Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 15 (King 5, McLaughlin 3, Van Kleunen 3, Karlen 2, Marotta, Team). Blocks: 1 (Marotta). Steals: 2 (Marotta, Myles).										
UConn	20	11	14	27	—	72				
Marquette	21	10	16	11	—	58				
Officials: Creech, Appellaniz, Cissoko-Stephens. Att.: 3,008 at Al McGuire Center, Milwaukee, Wisc.										



Safety Tip of the Day

When walking on an icy surface, take short steps or shuffle for stability. Bend slightly forward and walk flat-footed with your center of gravity directly over your feet as much as possible.



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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Ukraine Olympic team calls for peace



The Ukrainian Olympic team has followed the lead of skeleton racer Vladyslav Heraskevych in calling for peace. Heraskevych held up a sign with a Ukrainian flag and the message “No War in Ukraine” after completing a run in the skeleton competition on Friday at the Beijing Games. The message came against the backdrop of a Russian military build-up near the country’s border with Ukraine. “The Olympic Team of Ukraine ... expresses a unanimous call for peace together with (our) native country,” the Ukrainian Olympic Committee wrote on social media. “Being thousands of kilometers away from the Motherland, mentally we are with our families and friends.” The statement doesn’t mention Russia or the military situation. The International Olympic Committee bans most protest gestures at the Games. But the Olympic body isn’t taking action against Heraskevych, above, because “‘No war’ is a message we can all relate to,” said Christophe Dubi, the executive director of the Olympic Games. No Ukrainian athletes have so far followed Heraskevych’s lead by protesting in competition.

Thompson’s big night extra ‘special’



Klay Thompson scored 16 of his season-high 33 points in the fourth quarter, Stephen Curry made a clutch layup with 46 seconds remaining, and the Warriors held off the Lakers 117-115 on Saturday night in San Francisco. Curry had 24 points and eight assists. Thompson’s big night came in front of his father, former NBA player Mychal Thompson, who works on the Lakers radio broadcast. “It meant something special to do it for my dad,” said Klay Thompson, who returned last month after missing more than 2 ½ years due to injuries. “I don’t think he’s seen me play for a few years. I know he was proud of me, and that’s always fun.” LeBron James had 26 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists, but missed the first free throw after Curry fouled him attempting a 3 with 2.4 seconds left. He made the second and missed the third intentionally but couldn’t chase down the rebound in time. Earlier in the night, James extended his streak of 25 points or more to 22 games and passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for most points scored in the NBA combining the regular season and postseason with 44,157.

Auger-Aliassime claims 1st ATP title



Felix Auger-Aliassime won his first career title at the ninth attempt, upsetting top-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-2 in the Rotterdam final on Sunday to deny his opponent an eighth title. Victory at the indoor tournament in the Netherlands came as a relief for the 21-year-old Canadian after losing his previous eight finals dating back to 2019. “It has not been the smoothest road since my first final,” Auger-Aliassime said. “It is an amazing day for me to get my first title and especially here. I played my first ATP main draw here a couple of years ago, so it is right I won my first title here.” The third-seeded Auger-Aliassime hit seven aces and won 93% of his first serve points, compared to just one ace for Tsitsipas. The big-serving Greek was unusually poor on his serve with four double-faults and only 31 of 55 first serves landing in. His second serve let him down, too, and he won only 33% of points on it. It was Auger-Aliassime’s third win in eight matches against Tsitsipas, and he didn’t face a break point and broke Tsitsipas three times. The 23-year-old Tsitsipas dropped to 7-11 in finals. —AP



Erin Jackson takes a victory lap after winning gold in the women’s speedskating 500 meters on Sunday. SUE OGROCKI/AP

OLYMPICS

Worth its wait in gold

Jackson 1st Black woman to win speedskating medal

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

BEIJING — Erin Jackson bolted off the line, her powerful legs attacking the ice, her destiny awaiting at the end of a frenetic dash around Beijing’s magnificent speedskating oval.

She didn’t view herself as some sort of trailblazer. She didn’t think about the slip that could’ve snatched away her spot on the U.S. Olympic team. She simply wanted to go faster than everyone else.

“I came here to win,” the 29-year-old said.

Mission accomplished.

Jackson became first Black woman to win a speedskating medal at the Olympics — and it was the best color of them all.

Gold.

“A lot of shock, a lot of relief and a lot of happiness,” Jackson said after her victory in the 500 meters.

It was an immensely personal moment for an inline skating champion from balmy Ocala, Florida, who traded her wheels for blades in order to chase an improbable Olympic dream.

But it meant so much more.

Jackson’s skin color makes her an anomaly at the speedskating oval. She joined fellow American Shani Davis as the only Black athletes to win long-track medals at the Olympics.

“I just hope that it will do something for the sport,” Jackson said of her groundbreaking victory. “Hopefully, more people will see this and be

like, ‘Ohhh, maybe I should try some of these winter sports.’”

Back in Florida, Jackson’s long-time inline coach, Renee Hildebrand, cheered her on at an early-morning watch party thrown by one of her roller sport sponsors, Bont.

Hildebrand, too, hopes that Jackson’s victory will bring some much-needed diversity to skating — no matter if it’s wheels or blades.

“She’s such a fantastic role model,” Hildebrand said in a telephone interview. “Maybe little girls and little boys who are not all about roller skating or ice skating will see her and say, ‘Hey, people my color are there. She looks like me.’”

The coach noted the impressive accomplishments of Davis, who won two golds and two silvers at the Olympics, and now Jackson.

“There’s not a lot of African Americans in speedskating, but the ones who are have been are really, really good,” Hildebrand said. “If others will come, they’ll be good.”

Jackson won with a time of 37.04 seconds, giving the American speedskating program its first medal of the Beijing Games, its first individual medal since 2010, and its first victory in the women’s 500 since Bonnie Blair in 1994.

Jackson’s gold came after she slipped at the U.S. trials and shockingly finished third, putting her spot on the Olympic team in jeopardy.

But teammate Brittany Bowe, another Ocala skater who finished first at the trials, gave up her spot in the 500 to ensure Jackson would get to compete in Beijing.

“She made a really big sacrifice for

me,” Jackson said. “I’ll be grateful to her forever.”

As it turned out, the Americans received a third slot in the 500, so Bowe got to skate as well. She finished 16th.

The two close friends embraced after Jackson clinched the gold.

“She hugged me and we cried,” the winner said. “She said she’s really proud of me and I said a lot of thanks.”

Jackson skated in the next-to-last of 15 pairs with the time of 37.12 — set about a half-hour earlier in the fourth pairing by Japan’s Miho Takagi — in her sights.

Jackson darted off the line and and essentially won the gold in the first 100 meters, before she negotiated the first turn. Her opening split was 10.33 seconds, compared to 10.41 for Takagi.

That was the margin at the end, too.

“When it comes to the 500, it’s a matter of hundredths and sometimes thousandths of a second,” said Ryan Shimabukuro, Jackson’s coach when she’s on ice. “I knew she had the speed and it was going to come down to the opener. When I saw she opened in 10.3, pretty much the fastest she’s ever done, I knew we had a chance for the gold.”

As soon as her skates crossed the line, Jackson’s head turned toward the scoreboard.

She broke into a big smile when she saw the “1” beside her name, her time a scant 0.08 faster than Takagi’s. Shimabukuro pumped his arms and slapped hands with Jackson as she glided by.

There was still one pair left to skate, but Jackson knew she could do no worse than bronze.

A few minutes later, the gold was hers.

OLYMPICS MEN’S HOCKEY

US earns top seed in knockout round

By Stephen Whyno | Associated Press

BEIJING — The team in red, white and blue now has the easiest path to gold.

The young United States men’s hockey team held on to beat Germany 3-2 on Sunday night, finishing the preliminary round unbeaten and clinching the top seed in the knockout round at the Olympics. The Americans move directly into the quarterfinals and next play the winner of the Germany-Slovakia game from the qualification round.

“About all we could accomplish up to this point, we’ve done it,” coach David Quinn said. “There’s a swagger to us, and there’s a believability that’s gone here over the last week and it’s put us in this position, but we haven’t really accomplished anything that we want to accomplish.”

U.S. players and coaches set a goal of winning the group. They’ve done that and more as the only team in the tournament to win all three of its games in regulation.

The third was tougher than expected against the reigning silver medalists, who held on to beat China two nights after the U.S. blew out the host country 8-0. Even more than the Americans’ showdown against Canada, tensions boiled over between the U.S. and Germany with shouting from bench to bench and more than the usual amount of post-whistle scrums.

Much like the Canada game, the Americans stuck it out when Germany ratcheted up the physicality and nastiness and showed they won’t get bullied on the ice.

“The biggest thing for us is just proving that teams aren’t going to be able to run us out of the rink physically,” captain Andy Miele said. “We’re a young team, but we’re fast, we’re skilled and no one’s going to slow us down. We’re going to keep coming at you.”

Steven Kampfer scored on the power play less than three minutes after Germany took the lead, Matt Knies put the U.S. ahead and Drew Commesso made 24 saves for his second victory in as many starts. After Tom Kuhnhackl scored for Germany with 2:29 left, Nathan Smith’s goal early in the third period turned out to be the game-winner.

It took surviving a final push by Germany in the waning seconds, but the U.S. took care of business against a less talented but hard-working opponent. Kampfer said he and his teammates might have been looking ahead to the quarterfinals, but he and his coach were proud that the focus back on Germany happened quickly.

“Couldn’t be prouder of our group,” Quinn said. “I thought we had an edge to us. I thought we were hard on pucks. We’re not a big team, so teams are probably going to try to overmatch us with physicality. I thought we answered the bell tonight in a lot of ways.”

Second-seeded Finland, the third-seeded Russians and fourth-seeded Sweden also move on to the quarterfinals. Finland erased a three-goal deficit to beat Sweden 4-3 in overtime and move ahead of its archrival in the standings.

Finland’s comeback pushed Canada out of the top four. The fifth-seeded Canadians will face China again in the qualification round Tuesday, a rematch of Canada’s 5-0 win Sunday.

“The one thing we know is they’re going to come out hard, they’re going to compete hard, so we need to be ready,” Canada coach Claude Julien said. “We can’t take anything for granted.”

Sixth-seeded Denmark faces 11th-seeded Latvia, the seventh-seeded Czech Republic faces 10th-seeded Switzerland, and eighth-seeded Germany faces ninth-seeded Slovakia. NHL draft-eligible 17-year-old Juraj Slafkovsky scored his fourth goal to help Slovakia beat Latvia 5-2 for its first victory at the Olympics.

As the No. 1 seed, the U.S. can avoid the defending champion and pre-tournament favorite Russians and the impressive Finns until the gold-medal game.

“You want to put yourself in the best position possible and we did that,” Miele said.

The Americans improved to 3-0-0 despite playing their second game without defenseman Jake Sanderson, who was injured in the first period against Canada on Saturday but finished that game. Sanderson also missed the opener against China because virus testing issues left him in Los Angeles while the rest of the team traveled to Beijing.

USA Hockey listed Sanderson as day to day. Quinn had no further update on his status, but the entire team will benefit from an extra day before the next game.

“We’re sitting nice,” Smith said. “We’re happy we don’t have to play the qualifying round and can get a little bit more rest.”

Defenseman Drew Helleeson returned to the U.S. lineup to take Sanderson’s spot, and St. Cloud State forward Sam Hentges made his Olympic debut, replacing Boston College’s Marc McLaughlin.

Danny aus den Birken started in net for Germany with No. 1 goalie Mathias Niederberger getting the night off — aus den Birken was the starter when Germany got to the final in Pyeongchang in 2018.



The U.S. men’s hockey team celebrates its 3-2 win over Germany on Sunday. PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

Dr. Dre leads halftime hip-hop celebration

By Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — There was about as much hip-hop as a stadium can hold at Super Bowl halftime, with Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Mary J. Blige, Eminem and Kendrick Lamar spitting a fiery medley of their hits as expected, and a surprise appearance by 50 Cent.

It was a rare Super Bowl halftime show performed in the daylight, but it still had a feeling of a nightclub at SoFi Stadium on Sunday, with a set made up to look like the houses of nearby Compton and South LA.

Dre and Snoop opened the show with “Next Episode” and “California Love.”

50 Cent, not among the announced performers, started his “In Da Club” while hanging upside inside one of the rooms.

Blige was decked out in silver sparkles and surrounded by backup dancers as she sang a medley of her hits.

Eminem was surrounded by a rock band as he performed “Lose Yourself,” at one point taking a knee in apparent tribute to Colin Kaepernick’s protests.

The set was surrounded by what looked like a lit-up cityscape from above, with classic convertibles and replicas of the Tam’s Burgers stand and the sculpture outside the Compton Courthouse.

The crowd had lanyards with LED lights that flashed in coordination with the show’s beats, turning the whole stadium into a light show.

An explosion of fireworks lit up the sky as the sun set outside and the show ended with Dre’s “Still DRE”

An average anthem, in length only

“Quickie Mickey” slowed it down for the Super Bowl. Mickey Guyton — who



Eminem, from left, performs with Dr. Dre, Mary J. Blige and Snoop Dogg during Sunday’s Super Bowl halftime show. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

said this week that she’d earned the nickname for singing “The Star Spangled Banner” in a tight 1:30 — sang it in about 1:50 on Sunday before the Los Angeles Rams and Cincinnati Bengals took the field.

Odds makers had put the over/under on the anthem length at 1:35.

“I don’t want to ruin anybody’s sports bets, but let’s just say it’s the Super Bowl, so it most likely won’t be as fast,” the Grammy-nominated country singer said.

She delivered a soaring, emotive version of the anthem with a minimum of frills that was largely a capella at first before a small choir and piano

joined her.

She was still faster than the average Super Bowl anthem of around 2 minutes.

Guyton did not appear to drop or flub a word, another propositional bet that was offered. And those who bet on her outfit being blue can cash in. She wore a royal blue gown.

The 38-year-old Texas native, best known for her hit “Black Like Me,” made history as the first Black woman to earn a Grammy nomination in a country category and first Black solo woman to host the ACM Awards. She’s a four-time Grammy nominee — up for three at the upcoming ceremony in April.



50 Cent made a surprise appearance at Sunday’s halftime show. CHRIS O’MEARA/AP

Super Bowl ads look toward future

By Mae Anderson
Associated Press

Super Bowl advertisers this year wanted Americans to forget about pandemic woes and focus on the future — electric vehicles, mind-reading Alexas, robots and cryptocurrency — and also to harken back to the nostalgic past of 1990s movies such as “Austin Powers” and “The Cable Guy.”

Advertisers hoped to deliver a dose of escapism with light humor and star-studded entertainment amid the pandemic, high inflation, and tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

This year’s ads were amusing and warm, leading Kelly O’Keefe, CEO of brand consultancy Brand Federation, to dub this year the “Ted Lasso Super Bowl.” It’s not just because two of the Apple+ sitcoms’ stars appeared in ads — Jason Sudeikis for TurboTax and Hannah Waddingham for Rakuten.

It’s because the ads, like the sitcom, will be “nothing too heavy,” O’Keefe said. “It’s funny, positive and makes you happy — but doesn’t go too deep.”

Future forward

What does the future look like? Electric, if automakers have anything to do with it.

With automakers back in full force this Super Bowl, BMW showed Arnold Schwarzenegger as Zeus, the god of the sky (or in this commercial, the god of lightning) whose wife, Salma Hayek, gives him the EV BMW iX to spice up retirement.

Kia showcased the Kia EV6, the brand’s first battery electric vehicle, in its ad, along with a cute “robo dog.” Nissan gave a nod to its all-electric 2023 Nissan Ariya.

Other advertisers are future forward, too. Amazon’s spot showed real-life spouses Colin Jost and Scarlett Johansson living in a world where Amazon’s digital assistant Alexa can read your mind.

Bud Light NEXT, a new zero-carb Bud Light brand expansion, showcased an NFT in its ad. And Facebook offered a glimpse of its vision of the metaverse in a humorous ad that shows



Jennifer Coolidge, left, and Nicholas Braun are among the celebrities who try to eat household items in Uber Eats’ Super Bowl spot. UBER EATS



Tennis great Serena Williams goes bowling in a scene from Michelob Ultra’s Super Bowl commercial. ANHEUSER-BUSCH

a discarded animatronic dog meeting up with his pals again in the metaverse.

Pop culture nostalgia

Nostalgia is always a safe bet to win over viewers, and this year’s Super Bowl was no different.

Verizon called on Jim Carrey to reprise his loathsome 1996 “Cable Guy” character for its ad.

GM enlisted Mike Myers for an “Austin Powers”-themed ad that featured a reprise of his role as Austin Powers’ nemesis, Dr. Evil. He was joined by sidekicks played by Rob Lowe, Seth Green and Mindy Sterling.

And some ad executives hoped people can still remember iconic advertising. ETrade brought back the spokesbaby that appeared in its Super Bowl ads from 2008 to 2014.

A Hellmann’s ad showed former New England Patriots linebacker Jerod Mayo tackling unsuspecting people who waste

food. The ad was an homage to a 2003 Reebok Super Bowl ad starring a fictional linebacker named Terry Tate, who tackled office workers who weren’t being productive.

Celebrity overload

A well-liked celebrity generally adds some goodwill to a brand message. So how about three to five of them? Super Bowl ads are always stuffed with celebrities, but this year, many ads were over-stuffed with them.

Uber Eats wanted to get across the message that you can order household items from its delivery service, not just food. So its ad showed stars trying to eat everything from cat litter to diapers.

“If it was delivered by Uber Eats, does that mean I can ‘Eats’ it?” “White Lotus” actor Jennifer Coolidge asked.

Gwyneth Paltrow tried to eat a candle, Trevor Noah tried to eat a pencil, and Nicholas Braun from



Toyota’s ad tells the story of the McKeever brothers, cross-country skiers who have won 10 Paralympic medals together. TOYOTA



“Schitt’s Creek” star Eugene Levy is transformed into an action hero by taking a drive in a 2023 Nissan Z sports car. NISSAN

“Succession” tried to eat dish soap.

In Michelob Ultra’s ad, a bowling alley run by Steve Buscemi united superstar athletes from across sports enjoying some bowling in their off time: tennis great Serena Williams, former NFL quarterback Peyton Manning, the NBA’s Miami Heat all-star forward Jimmy Butler, WNBA star Nneka Ogwumike, top golfer Brooks Koepka and U.S. women’s soccer star Alex Morgan.

Planet Fitness’ ad had narration by William Shatner and showed Lindsay Lohan working out, winning “Jeopardy!” against Dennis Rodman and bedazzling Danny Trejo’s ankle bracelet.

And in Nissan’s ad, Eugene Levy was transformed into an action hero by taking a drive in a 2023 Nissan Z sports car, alongside stars Danai Gurira and Dave Bautista.

Levy’s “Schitt’s Creek” co-star

Catherine O’Hara appeared in Nissan’s new Ariya electric car.

Social messages

Most advertisers steered clear of sentiment. A few, though, delivered heartfelt messages.

The Budweiser brand, absent last year, returned with a spot centered on one of its Clydesdale mascots. After it’s injured by jumping a barbed wire fence — a not-so-subtle reference to the U.S. and the coronavirus pandemic — another Budweiser mascot, a Labrador, a stableman and a vet help the Clydesdale recover and gallop again.

Google’s ad for the Pixel 6 starred Lizzo and focused on how the phone’s camera highlights darker skin tones.

And Toyota’s ad, which debuted during the Olympics, told the story of the McKeever brothers, cross-country skiers who have won 10 Paralympic medals together.

SUPER BOWL 56 BENGALS VS. RAMS



The late Bum Phillips, left, never coached in a Super Bowl. His son, Wade, right, went to three Super Bowls as an assistant coach and was on the winning side with the Broncos in Super Bowl 50. Wade's son, Wes, currently serves as an offensive assistant for the Rams. **AP FILE**

Family ties never hurt

Connections still can make big impact in NFL coaching

By Teresa M. Walker
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rams assistant coach Wes Phillips knows only too well just how difficult — and rare — reaching a Super Bowl can be.

His grandfather, Bum, never got to the NFL's biggest game, losing two AFC championship games as coach of the then-Houston Oilers. His own father, Wade, coached 42 seasons and made it to three Super Bowls, winning only one.

“So I’m just grateful for this opportunity,” Wes Phillips said. “Fifteen years in the league, and this is my first opportunity to play in Super Bowl. Actually, it was the first year that I was on a team that went past the divisional round.”

With former Dolphins coach Brian Flores suing the NFL alleging racism hiring practices, this Super Bowl offers a reminder that family ties can play a big role in creating business opportunities for men moving in and up in this league.

Consider:

- Rams coach Sean McVay. His grandfather John not only was head coach of the Giants

for three seasons in the 1970s, he also was general manager for five Super Bowl championships with the 49ers in the 1980s and 1990s.

- Bengals offensive coordinator Brian Callahan. His father Bill is a former head coach of the then-Oakland Raiders and Washington. The elder Callahan was the Raiders head coach when they lost to the Buccaneers in the 2003 Super Bowl.
- Bengals coach Zac Taylor. He started as a graduate assistant at Texas A&M for Mike Sherman and followed his father-in-law to the NFL when Sherman was hired as Dolphins offensive coordinator. Taylor stayed with the Dolphins after Sherman was fired. His brother, Press, is a senior offensive assistant for the Colts.

There are more.

Rams offensive assistant Zak Kromer’s dad is former Rams offensive line coach Aaron Kromer, who was recently hired by Buffalo. Linebackers coach Chris Shula is the grandson of Hall of Fame coach Don Shula and son of former Bengals head coach Dave Shula. Phillips and Kromer stayed with the Rams even after McVay essentially fired their fathers.

Phillips is the Rams tight ends coach and passing game coordinator. He got his NFL start in 2007 working as a quality control/offensive assistant with his father as head

coach in Dallas. Phillips stayed three more seasons with the Cowboys after Wade was fired.

He worked his way to assistant offensive line coach, special teams assistant, and finally got his first position group as tight ends coach in 2013 working with Jason Witten.

Being the son and grandson of NFL coaches certainly helped Phillips a lot. Imagine all the conversations at home, especially when watching a football game together.

A master class in football.

Growing up inside the NFL also means the chance to meet other coaches. Phillips credits Dan Reeves, his father’s boss with the Broncos and later the Falcons, as being a big influence.

The one thing all these coaches learned well from their relatives is just how hard it is to win the NFL’s ultimate prize. Phillips noted it’s been even tougher the last couple decades thanks to Tom Brady limiting those opportunities for anyone not affiliated with the seven-time NFL champ.

That makes this moment even more special.

“Really just trying to appreciate and be grateful for the opportunity,” Phillips said.

AP writers Josh Dubow, Greg Beacham and Joe Reedy contributed.

RAMS

McVay takes time to look at his future

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Five years and one month after Sean McVay became the youngest head coach in modern NFL history, he’s somehow still the youngest coach in the league.

At a time when many of his chronological coaching peers are still getting started, the 36-year-old Rams boss was getting his second shot to become the youngest coach to win the Super Bowl.

Perhaps it’s no wonder this inveterate overachiever has been suggesting for several years that he might leave coaching early as well.

McVay answered questions about the subject again ahead of Sunday’s game while the Rams wrapped up their final preparations to face the Bengals. While McVay has never said he’s planning an imminent exit from his profession, his openness in talking about life after the sideline generates headlines whenever he is asked about it — and it happened again 48 hours before the Super Bowl.

“I know I love football and I’m so invested in this thing, and I’m in the moment right now,” McVay said Friday. “But at some point, too, if you said, ‘What do you want to be able to do?’ I want to be able have a family, and I want to be able to spend time with them.”

Whenever McVay is asked whether he sees himself following the example of Pete Carroll and Bill Belichick by coaching into his 60s or 70s, McVay rejects the idea. He did it again Friday, saying he “won’t make it” that long.

But McVay’s first half-decade on the Rams’ sideline has been wildly successful. He has 55 regular-season victories, four playoff berths, three NFC West titles, two Super Bowl berths and entered Sunday’s game already holding a franchise-record six postseason wins.

He’s on a path that gives him time to become the winningest coach in NFL history — but only if he wants to stick it out. McVay has openly acknowledged the burnout that hits him during a season, and he is still trying to learn how to regulate his investment.

“I don’t think calm is ever a word that anybody would use to describe me,” he said.

McVay throws everything into his job, yet he’s self-aware enough to realize it exacts a toll. His friends and players see it, too: They love to tease their head coach about his intensity, with Cooper Kupp revealing that the Rams often talk about the “anger sharks” in McVay’s head — a reference to a joke in the 2003 film “Anger Management.”

“I think at times he walks the line between unhealthy competition and healthy competition,” Kupp said. “He wants to win at all cost.”

Perhaps McVay simply exemplifies the evolving awareness of mental health among his fellow millennials by giving voice to doubts and concerns that a stereotypical Boomer coach would deny or a Generation X coach might ignore.

But given McVay’s self-described obsessive nature of research and planning, it’s no surprise he’s already thinking about what he might want several years in the future before he even has kids or a wife. McVay and his longtime fiancée, Veronika Khomyn, will finally get married this year after a two-year delay because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“I want to have a family, and I think (it’s important) being able to find that balance, but also be able to give the time necessary,” McVay said. “I have always had a dream about being able to be a father, and I can’t predict the future, you know?”

McVay is the grandson of John McVay, the former Giants coach and 49ers executive. Sean’s father, Tim, didn’t go into football partly because he wanted to have time with his family that John McVay never had. That example looms large in Sean’s mind, because he believes his father could have been “an unbelievable coach” and leader.

“One of the things that prevented him from getting into coaching was, ‘Man, I had such a great relationship, but my dad missed out on a lot of the things,’” Sean McVay said. “And he didn’t want to do that with me and my little brother. I always remembered that.”

McVay’s first NFL boss was the ever-intense Jon Gruden, and McVay’s speculation about his long-term future suggests he might follow other paths traveled by Gruden.

Gruden became the Raiders coach at 34 and won a Super Bowl with the Buccaneers at 39.

After Gruden was fired by the Bucs at 45, he spent nine years in the broadcast booth before his ill-fated second stint with the Raiders.

With his polished public persona and teaching acumen, McVay could easily handle the decidedly less stressful responsibilities of a broadcast career. Whether he would miss the rush of competition is a different question, and even McVay doesn’t know the answer.

McVay’s mixed feelings on his long-term future are still clear, and he seems to be years away from making any decision about the next chapter. A few moments after speculating about life after coaching, McVay said he still can’t imagine it.

“You’ll probably be talking to me when I’m 61 doing this stuff,” he said.

MEDIA

Collinsworth’s career comes full circle

Ex-Bengals WR in booth for team’s return to Super Bowl

By Joe Reedy
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Cris Collinsworth is familiar with Super Bowl runs by the Bengals. He was part of the first two during his eight-year career with the franchise and has seen their highs and lows during the last 33 years, not only as a commentator but as a resident of neighboring Kentucky.

It’s only fitting that Collinsworth was in the broadcast booth for Sunday’s matchup against the Rams for the Vince Lombardi Trophy. The game was his fifth Super Bowl as an analyst and fourth with NBC as Al Michaels’ partner.

“I’m obviously excited. I’m human,” Collinsworth said ahead of Sunday’s game.

Collinsworth sees a striking similarity between this year’s Bengals team and the ones he was on in 1981 and 1988.

“The one thing all three had in common was great quarterback play. Kenny Anderson and Boomer Esiason had MVP seasons, and certainly what Joe Burrow has done this year is fairly phenomenal,” he said. “Joe has captured the hearts of this city. I don’t know that maybe since Pete Rose has there been a player that sort of captured this city the way that Joe Burrow has.”

Even though Collinsworth lives less than 20 minutes from Paul Brown Stadium, almost all of his advance research the last couple weeks was on the Bengals. The last



Cris Collinsworth, who called his fifth Super Bowl on Sunday, played twice in the game as a receiver with the Bengals. “I’m obviously excited. I’m human,” he said ahead of the game. **AP FILE**

Bengals game he called was in 2018 against the Chiefs.

The Bengals are the third team since NBC’s “Sunday Night Football” package started in 2006 to not make an appearance the year it made the Super Bowl.




Collinsworth has always had a good relationship with Bengals owner Mike Brown. Even though many think that Brown was in the background during the franchise’s success in the 1980s, Collinsworth pointed out that Brown was already running things while his father, Hall of Fame coach Paul Brown, owned the team.

“I always thought the greatest thing in the world would be to be an NFL owner. But the more I’m around it, I’m not so sure about that,” Collinsworth said. “These guys takes so much heat with their role on the teams. Every city that you go to it is crazy sometimes.”

“Mike is a guy that in many ways I feel like gets the short end of the stick sometimes because he’s not Jerry Jones, he’s not a big PR guy, he’s not out front and center all the time. I signed to go with the USFL because I couldn’t get my contract where I thought it should be. I signed a futures deal there and when the league ran its course he welcomed me back with open arms. When my career was nearing an end and I was starting law school, he allowed me to miss morning meetings to go to classes, which was completely unheard of.”




WEATHER

MONDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

TUESDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

WEDNESDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

THURSDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

FRIDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Some morning clouds giving way to afternoon sunshine, breezy and cold. Northwest wind at 10 to 20 mph.

HIGH 24°
LOW 7°

Mostly sunny and chilly.

HIGH 31°
LOW 15°

Partly sunny, breezy and milder.

HIGH 43°
LOW 37°

Mostly cloudy, very breezy and very mild. Rain developing late.





HIGH 58°
LOW 40°

Lingering morning rain ending, then becoming partly sunny, breezy.

HIGH 45°
LOW 23°

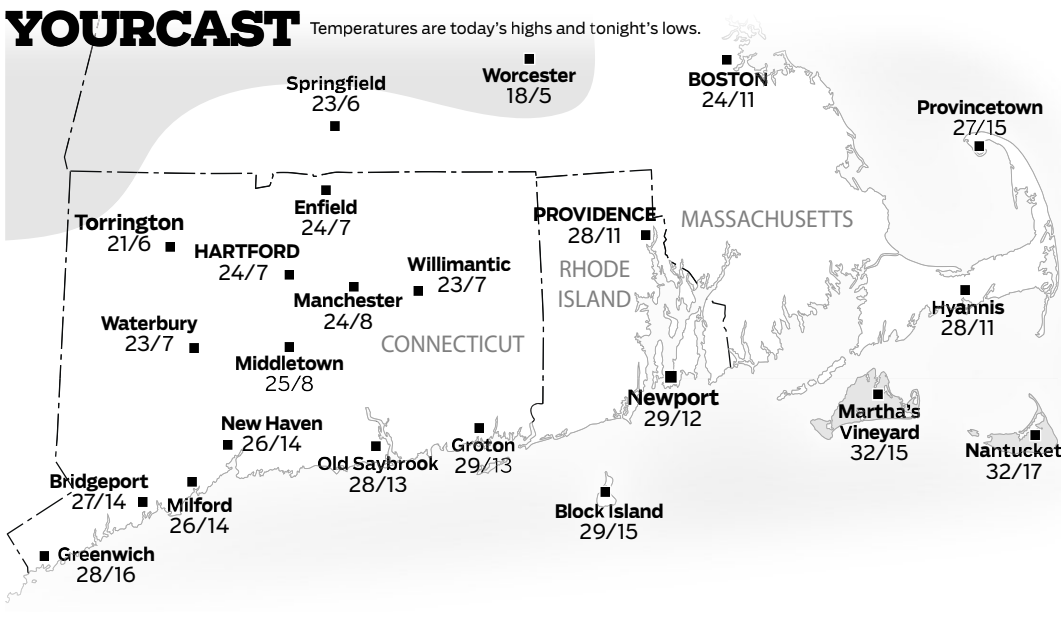
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YOURCAST



OUTLOOK

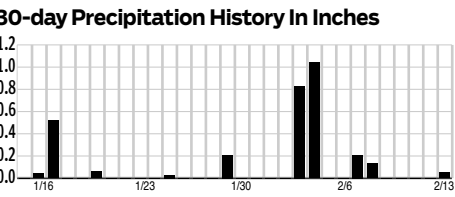
Sunday morning's snowfall wasn't too much to handle, but there were some decent accumulations. Bridgeport led the way at 3.4 inches. Danbury and Norwalk received 3.3 inches, while Southington had 3.2 inches. Burlington, Easton, Guilford, Harwinton, New Fairfield, Stamford, and Weston had 3.0 inches. Canterbury and Wallingford had 2.8 inches, while Rockville received 2.7 inches. Although the next two days will be quite cold, there is no snow in the forecast and in fact it will be some time before more falls as a significant warmup is coming Wednesday through Friday.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.05	0.11
Month to date	2.26	1.37
Total this year	4.09	4.65
Snowfall In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	1.9	0.5
Total this year	21.3	33.6

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	8:01 a.m.	1:46 a.m.	37°
	8:15 p.m.	2:28 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	9:12 a.m.	2:39 a.m.	36°
	9:26 p.m.	3:21 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	11:55 a.m.	6:25 a.m.	
	p.m.	7:07 p.m.	
Madison	9:21 a.m.	3:01 a.m.	36°
	9:46 p.m.	3:36 p.m.	
New Haven	9:41 a.m.	3:25 a.m.	37°
	10:06 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	
Stamford	9:45 a.m.	3:39 a.m.	38°
	10:10 p.m.	4:14 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford:	4.13 feet at 4:30 p.m.
Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W MSunny L.I. Sound E AM Clouds B. I. Sound AM Clouds
Wind	NW, 15-20 NW, 15-20 NW, 15-20
Seas	2-3 ft. 2-3 ft. 3-5 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Sunday	33 at 3:07 a.m.	27 at 8:15 a.m.
Normal for date	38	20
Record for date	59 in 1937	-7 in 1967
A year ago	27	15
Range this year	59	-2

Heating Degree Days

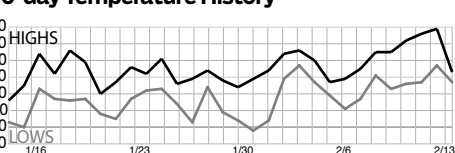
For July 1 - Feb 13

Season 3471

Normal 3829

Last Season 3580

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere High 30.20 at 9 a.m. Low 30.05 at 3 p.m. Barometer 24° at 6 a.m. 17° at 3 a.m. Dew point

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND Bangor 18 -2 PC Burlington 11 -10 PC Caribou 15 -10 PC Concord 19 0 PC Montpelier 12 -2 PC Mt. Wash. -10 -22 C Portland 21 3 PC Woods Hole 27 10 PC NATION Albany 21 6 PC Albuquerque 59 33 S Atlantic City 34 10 PC	Baltimore 36 17 PC Bismarck 24 10 C Boise 43 27 C Buffalo 16 11 PC Charleston 59 37 S Cincinnati 32 19 PC Cleveland 23 14 C Indianapolis 30 19 PC Jacksonville 62 36 S Las Vegas 75 51 PC Miami Beach 70 65 S Milwaukee 22 14 C	Nashville 47 29 PC New Orleans 60 42 S New York 28 19 PC Okla. City 70 40 S Omaha 41 20 S Orlando 64 43 S Pittsburgh 26 13 C Raleigh 49 28 PC St. Louis 47 28 PC Salt Lake City 56 38 PC San Antonio 70 46 S San Diego 69 60 PC	Kingston 88 72 PC Lisbon 69 45 PC London 48 37 C Madrid 55 37 SH Mexico City 71 47 SH Milan 39 34 R Montreal 12 3 PC Moscow 34 30 SN Nassau 75 59 S New Delhi 71 52 C Paris 52 41 SH Prague 45 32 S Rio de Janeiro 88 73 T Rome 57 46 R Seoul 45 21 C Singapore 93 77 T	Budapest 50 39 PC Buenos Aires 86 68 S New York 70 50 S Cancun 76 65 PC Dubai 73 63 PC Dublin 46 45 PC Edinburgh 45 36 C Helsinki 37 36 C Hong Kong 64 59 PC Istanbul 46 36 C Jerusalem 52 43 SH Johannesburg 86 61 T	Stockholm 40 38 R Sydney 82 66 PC Tel Aviv 64 51 PC Tokyo 48 32 SN Toronto 21 12 PC Vancouver 46 39 C Warsaw 45 30 S
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KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Saturday's late high school results

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-South
Bristol Central 54, Berlin 33
BERLIN (11-5): Marino Fornelli 4-0-12, Zach Skinner 3-2-9, Jake Smalley 3-0-8, River Eberhardt 1-1-4. Totals 11-3-33.
BRISTOL CENTRAL (17-0): Victor Rosa 2-0-5, Darnion Glasper 2-0-5, Zach Vanasse 1-0-3, Carmelo Thompson 1-0-2, Carson Rivolora 6-0-12, Donovan Clingan 13-1-27. Totals 25-1-34.
B 7 6 4 16 - 53
BC 13 9 18 14 - 54
Others
NFA 78, Hall 45
NFA (15-2): Nazir Rembert 6-1-15, Tyrone Cummings 8-0-16, Austin Cannon 7-3-19, Jayden Desilius 3-0-6, Edwin Santana 1-2-4, Camron Barboza 2-0-4, Javen Foster 5-4-14. Totals 32-10-78.
HALL (5-12): Amare Dugue 6-1-13, Cole Kocienda 5-0-13, Amecia Freeman 1-0-2, Ixael Albino 1-2-4, Mason Wright 1-2-4, Spencer Berson 2-2-6, Joe Dooley 1-0-3. Totals 17-7-45.

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-South
E.O. Smith/Tolland 4, Hall 0
H 0 0 0 - 0
EOS 1 2 1 - 4
Goals: EOS—Zack Stollenberg, Cole Schoen, Damian Till, Braden George. Saves: EOS—Dan Polgun, 15; H—Aeden Mallat and Ethan DelGrego, 35. Rec.: EOS—13-2-1; H—6-8. Note: Pat Brennan and Kaleb Van Horn each had 2 assists.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Others
East Catholic co-op 6, Greenwich 4
EC 3 3 0 - 6
G 2 0 2 - 4
Goals: EC—Meghan Croyle (3), Mary McKiernan (2), Lili Ficaro; G—Peyton Jelinek (2), Lexi Danielson, Nina Coffee. Saves: EC—Kelsey Kowal, 42; G—Emma Kunschner, 17. Rec.: EC—8-4-4; G—9-5-1.

WRESTLING

NCCC Championship
Team results: 1. Portland, 171; 2. Stafford, 151; 3. Canton, 126; 4. Somers, 107; 5. Suffield/Windsor Locks, 69; 6. Granby, 68; 7. Rockville, 43; 8. Coventry, 31.
ECC Championship
Team results: 1. Killingly, 184.5; 2. NFA, 153; 3. New London, 150.5; 4. East Lyme/Norwich Tech, 150; 5. Fitch, 140; 6. Windham, 138.5; 7. Ledyard, 136; 8. Waterford, 110; 9. Lyman Memorial/Windham Tech, 101; 10. Montville, 91.5; 11. Griswold/Wheeler, 83; 12. Bacon Academy, 75.5; 13. Putnam, 58; 14. Stonington, 12.

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Class L Championship (Floyd Little AC, New Haven)
Top 5teams: 1. Xavier, 86.50; 2. Hillhouse, 54; T-3. New Milford and Conard, 48; 5. Windsor, 34.
55meters: 1. Ralphael Hawkins, Hillhouse, 6.48; 2. Colin Brown, Cheshire, 6.54; 3. Nolan Freeman, New Milford, 6.61.
300: 1. Ralphael Hawkins, Hillhouse, 35.67; 2. Nolan Freeman, New Milford, 36.29; 3. Eamon Conneely, Xavier, 36.32.
600: 1. LeoAngel Lopez, Naugatuck, 1:26.27; 2. Connor Sterling, New Milford, 1:26.29; 3. Alex Pacheco, Shelton, 1:27.56.
1,000: 1. Eamon Burke, Xavier, 2:37.97; 2. Callum Sherry, Conard, 2:39.52; 3. Luke Rliordan, Danien, 2:41.07.
1,600: 1. Gavin Sherry, Conard, 4:13.97; 2. Callum Sherry, Conard, 4:21.21; 3. Francis Porriani, Bristol Central, 4:27.28.
3,200: 1. Gavin Sherry, Conard, 8:59.45; 2. Callum Sherry, Conard, 9:13.83; 3. Eamon Burke, Xavier, 9:40.50.
55hurdles: 1. Jarrett Windsor, Bristol Central, 7.97; 2. Joshua Clarke, Windsor, 8.08; 3. Dillon Luke, Xavier, 8.15.
4x200relay: 1. Xavier (Owen Pestka, Owen Miller, Eamon Conneely, Chase Vitale), 1:33.32; 2. Hillhouse, 1:33.36; 3. Windsor, 1:35.27.
4x400: 1. Naugatuck (Daniel Anderson, Taylor Trowers, Zachary McCasland, LeoAngel Lopez), 3:35.40; 2. New Milford, 3:36.86; 3. Amity, 3:39.51.
4x800: 1. Conard (Gavin Sherry, Nicolas Martin, Grant Walters, Callum Sherry), 8:16.66; 2. Guilford, 8:20.58; 3. Newtown, 8:27.74.
Sprint medley: 1. Xavier (Owen Pestka, Owen Miller, Chase Vitale, Eamon Burke), 3:40.79; 2. Bristol Central, 3:43.41; 3. Windsor, 3:45.85.
Long jump: 1. Ryan Johnson, Wilton, 21-5.5; 2.

Holden Speed, Wethersfield, 21-2; 3. Dillon Luke, Xavier, 20-6.5.
High jump: 1. Timothy Watson, Simsbury, 6-4; 2. Zyaire Walli, Hillhouse, 6-2; 3. Caleb Smith, Newtown, 5-10.
Pole vault: 1. Hunter Feitel, Xavier, 11-6; 2. Nicholas Vogel, East Lyme, 11-6; 3. Connor Aldrich, Simbury, 11-6.
Shot put: 1. Gary Moore Jr., Hillhouse, 64-1.25; 2. Christopher Bon Tempo, New Milford, 51-1; 3. Thomas Matlock, East Lyme, 49-2.25.
Class S Championship (Floyd Little AC, New Haven)
Top 5teams: 1. Stonington, 56; 2. Bloomfield, 53; 3. Suffield, 44; T-4. Coginchaug and Woodland, 36
55meters: 1. Malcolm Beckford, Weaver, 6.57; 2. Joshua Mooney, Stonington, 6.63; 3. Bryan McLean, Derby, 6.66.
300: 1. Malcolm Beckford, Weaver, 36.09; 2. Jaden Wynn, Cromwell, 36.94; 3. Kanye Bailey, Derby, 36.96.
600: 1. William Dalles, Coginchaug, 1:25.34; 2. Matthew Davis, Bloomfield, 1:26.30; 3. Owen Delisle, Portland, 1:26.97.
1,000: 1. Ryan Gruczka, Stonington, 2:35.20; 2. Ryan Orr, Stonington, 2:37.35; 3. Griffin Mandirola, Suffield, 2:38.68.
1,600: 1. Sean Kennedy-Wonneberger, Hale-Ray, 4:27.47; 2. Colin Slavin, Woodland, 4:38.40; 3. Bryan Martinez, Rocky Hill, 4:42.60.
3,200: 1. Sean Kennedy-Wonneberger, Hale-Ray, 9:37.78; 2. Ryan Gruczka, Stonington, 10:00.22; 3. Griffin Mandirola, Suffield, 10:10.36.
55hurdles: 1. Joshua Mooney, Stonington, 7.60; 2. Mitchell Dipalma, Old Saybrook, 8.25; 3. Nathan Cournean, Canton, 8.28.
4x200relay: 1. Weaver (Abe Zebic, Malcolm Beckford, Moise Zebic, Otnell Morgan), 1:35.43; 2. Derby, 1:38.11; 3. Old Saybrook, 1:38.36.
4x400: 1. Bloomfield (Christian Wolliston, Matthew Davis, Zachary Blackwood, Robert Turner), 3:35.98; 2. Coginchaug, 3:40.24; 3. Suffield, 3:45.63.
4x800relay: 1. Stonington (Oliver Cooke, Jason Morse, Ryan Orr, Ryan Gruczka), 8:33.24; 2. Hale-Ray, 8:44.97; 3. Woodland, 8:47.11.
Sprint medley: 1. Coginchaug (Ryan Newberry, Gage Rovelli, Alexander Melsenkotter, William Dalles), 3:47.00; 2. Bloomfield, 3:47.17; 3. Haddam-Killingworth, 3:52.05.
Long jump: 1. Tyler Turner, St. Paul, 21-6; 2. Connor McCue, Suffield, 21-0.25; 3. Robert Dunkley, Bloomfield, 21-0.25.
High jump: 1. Robert Dunkley, Bloomfield, 6-4; 2. Avery Clippic, Suffield, 6-2; 3. Eric Meade, Woodland, 5-10.
Pole vault: 1. Nicholas Rivard-Lentz, East Hampton, 13-0; 2. Gage Rovelli, Coginchaug, 12-0; 3. Jason Ouellette, J12-0.
Shot put: 1. Alex Krause, Coventry, 49-5; 2. Michael Hyder, Derby, 47-4.5; 3. John Milner-Jones, Bloomfield, 44-11.25.

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Class L Championship (Floyd Little AC, New Haven)
Top 5teams: 1. Windsor, 64; 2. Darien, 54; 3. Hillhouse, 42; 4. East Lyme, 35; 5. Simsbury, 33.
55meters: 1. Nyasia Dailey, Middletown, 7.27; 2. Audrey Kozak, Shelton, 7.44; 3. Leila Gary, Simsbury, 7.46.
300: 1. Victoria Francis, Simsbury, 42.02; 2. Britanni Westberry, Windsor, 42.34; 3. Allison Murphy, Naugatuck, 42.76.
600: 1. Kate Demark, Darien, 1:40.12; 2. Brittani Westberry, Windsor, 1:40.20; 3. Julia Blake, Darien, 1:40.67.
1,000: 1. Olivia Birney, Simsbury, 3:01.63; 2. Bria Benigni, Maloney, 3:01.87; 3. Emily Mrakovic, Wilton, 3:02.02.
1,600: 1. Sydney Kelleher, New Milford, 5:09.63; 2. Mairead Clas, Darien, 5:13.26; 3. Bria Benigni, Maloney, 5:14.67.
3,200: 1. Madeline Sweeney, New Milford, 11:11.35; 2. Julianne Teitler, Darien, 11:19.64; 3. Mairead Clas, Darien, 11:35.08.
55hurdles: 1. Shani Smith, Windsor, 8.50; 2. Grace Stephens, Maske, 8.82; 3. Leonaya Knox, Hillhouse, 8.89.
4x200relay: 1. Hillhouse (Ne'riah Townsend, Ta'niyah Mabry, Brianna West, Shalisha Robertson), 1:50.50; 2. East Lyme, 1:52.35; 3. Darien, 1:52.70.
4x400: 1. Naugatuck (Lily Jason, Julia Kropo, Lauren Soneski, Allison Murphy), 4:09.89; 2. Windsor, 4:12.46; 3. Darien, 4:14.12.
4x800: 1. E.O. Smith (Elizabeth Bigelow, Alexis Buskey, Abigail Rose, Gabriella Hernandez), 9:43.32; 2. New Milford, 9:47.33; 3. Windsor, 10:13.51.
Sprint medley: 1. Hillhouse (Ta'niyah Mabry, Brianna West, Jada McCown, Bernadette Karpel), 4:28.22; 2. Windsor, 4:31.60; 3. Shelton, 4:33.34.
Long jump: 1. Audrey Kozak, Shelton, 16-11.75; 2. Lauren Hincley, East Lyme, 16-0; 3. Jayla Wash-

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-South
Bristol Central 42, Lewis Mills 28

BOYS HOCKEY

Others
Xavier 5, Smithfield (R.I.) 3
Monday's high school schedule
All games at 6:45p.m. unless noted

BOYS BASKETBALL

NCCC: East Windsor at SMSA, 5:30p.m.; East Granby at Suffield; Ellington at Somers
Shoreline: Coginchaug at Westbrook, 7p.m.; Hale-Ray at Portland, 7p.m.; Morgan at Cromwell, 7p.m.; East Hampton at North Branford, 7p.m.
CTC: Wolcott Tech at Goodwin Tech, 5:30p.m.
CRAL: Innovation at Civic Leadership, 6:15p.m.
NVL: Wolcott at St. Paul, 7p.m.
Others: Capital Prep at Amistad, 4:30p.m.; Old Lyme at Norwich Tech, 5:15p.m.; Prince Tech at Weaver, 6p.m.; East Catholic at Bassick, 6p.m.; MLC at Bloomingfield; Granby at Wethersfield; E.O. Smith at Stafford; Old Saybrook at Montville, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-North: Wethersfield at Newington, 5:30p.m.; New Britain at Rocky Hill; Bloomfield at Windsor
CCC-South: Lewis Mills at Middletown, 5:30p.m.; Plainville at Berlin; Bristol Central at Bristol East-ern; Platt at Maloney
CCC-East: Manchester at East Hartford, 6p.m.; RHAM at Enfield; E.O. Smith at Tolland; East Catholic at South Windsor
CCC-West: Southington at Northwest Catholic, 6 p.m.; Simsbury at Glastonbury; Conard at Hall; Farmington at Avon
NCCC: HMTCA at Canton, 5p.m.; SMSA at Granby, 6p.m.; Somers at Ellington

ington, East Lyme, 15-11.5.
High jump: 1. Meg Barnow, Fairfield Warde, 5-2; 2. Shaelyn Murphy, Maloney and Isabella Taccogna, Stratford, 5-0.
Pole vault: 1. Grace Stephens, Masuk, 10-6; 2. Sarah Warden, Farmington, 9-0; 3. Jessica Queiroz Amaral, Fairfield Warde, 8-6.
Shot put: 1. Savannah Soleau, East Lyme, 30-0; 2. Olivia O'Connor, Hillhouse, 38-11.5; 3. Shalisha Robertson, Hillhouse, 35-9.75.
Class S Championship (Floyd Little AC, New Haven)
Top 5teams: 1. Bloomfield, 92; 2. East Hampton, 42; 3. Old Saybrook, 40; 4. Immaculate, 35; 5. Stonington, 33.
55meters: 1. Nancy Inthasit, Stonington, 7.35; 2. D'Jior Delisser, Bloomfield, 7.36; 3. Anna-Sashia Jones, Weaver, 7.37.
300: 1. Avery Rueckert, Old Saybrook, 41.79; 2. Anna-Sashia Jones, Weaver, 42.26; 3. Jessica Starr, East Hampton, 42.74.
600: 1. Lauren Manning, Immaculate, 1:41.15; 2. Kiyah Williams, Bloomfield, 1:41.40; 3. Kyleigh Miller, Windham, 1:41.76.
1,000: 1. Kaylee Gravel, East Hampton, 3:11.78; 2. Madeleine Morgado, Old Lyme, 3:19.11; 3. Catherine Minegar, Old Saybrook, 3:19.50.
1,600: 1. Rachel St. Germain, Somers, 5:12.73; 2. Chloe Poulos, Woodland, 5:31.26; 3. Kaylee Gravel, East Hampton, 5:39.08.
3,200: 1. Rachel St. Germain, Somers, 11:01.08; 2. Shawn Laverty, Portland, 11:53.77; 3. Keelin Bremner, Immaculate, 12:10.75.
55hurdles: 1. Brylee Montanari, East Hampton, 8.88; 2. Jessica Starr, East Hampton, 9.00; 3. Johniece Jones, Bloomfield, 9.07.
4x200relay: 1. Bloomfield (Dream Wilson, Laniyah Henderson, Aria Gray, Sianna Lloyd), 1:48.07; 2. Old Saybrook, 1:50.36; 3. Lewis Mills, 1:52.13.
4x400: 1. Bloomfield (Aisha Williams, Aria Gray, Laniyah Henderson, Kiyah Williams), 4:15.52; 2. Stonington, 4:17.83; 3. Thomaston, 4:26.50.
4x800: 1. Immaculate (Nicole Merritt, Keelin Bremner, Lauren Manning, Kayla Ondy), 10:07.81; 2. Portland, 10:28.24; 3. Somers, 10:31.91.
Sprint medley: 1. Stonington (Hannah Anderson, Helena Hoinsky, Nancy Inthasit, Ilana Rashleigh), 4:27.13; 2. Derby, 4:33.27; 3. Watertown, 4:39.39.
Long jump: 1. D'Jior Delisser, Bloomfield, 17-7; 2. Laniyah Henderson, Bloomfield, 16-10; 3. Sarayah Winborne, Capital Prep, 16-3.
High jump: 1. D'Jior Delisser, Bloomfield, 5-0; T-2. Malia Wilson, MLC and Johniece Jones, Bloomfield, 4-10.
Pole vault: 1. Allison Vigue, Coginchaug, 11-0; 2. Autumn Bacik, Watertown, 9-0; 3. Christina Grace, Old Saybrook, 9-0.
Shot put: 1. Tommie Barker, Canton, 33-5; 2. Olivia Habarek, Stonington, 32-1.5; 3. Payton Lowe, St. Bernard, 31-11.25.
Sunday's high school results

Shoreline: Westbrook at Coginchaug, 6p.m.; North Branford at East Hampton, 7p.m.; Cromwell at Morgan, 7p.m.
CTC: Goodwin Tech at Wolcott Tech, 3:30p.m.; Ellis Tech at Windham Tech, 5:30p.m.
CRAL: Achievement First at MLC, 4:30p.m.; Weaver at Classical, 7p.m.
SCC: North Haven at Cheshire, 6p.m.; Lauralton Hall at Mercy, 6p.m.; Lyman Hall at Career, 6p.m.
ECC: Plainfield at Bacon Academy, 6p.m.
NVL: St. Paul at Wilby, 6p.m.
Others: Bolton at Hale-Ray, 6p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-North: South Windsor at Simsbury, 8:15p.m.
Others: Southington co-op at Staples, 7:30p.m.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Others: Fairfield co-op at Avon co-op, 4:15p.m.; Wilton co-op at Conard/Hall, 7:20p.m.; West Haven/SHA at Suffield co-op, 8:10p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC: Conard at Northwest Catholic, 3:45p.m.; South Windsor at Windsor, 4p.m.; Southington at Middletown, 4p.m.
SCC: Sheehan, Notre Dame-West Haven at Shel-ton, 3:30p.m.; Hamden at Lyman Hall/Coginchaug, 3:45p.m.; H-K/Morgan/Valley at West Haven, 4p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASICS

Others: Old Saybrook, NFA at Old Lyme, 2:30p.m.
Sunday's college results

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn 63, St. John's 60
Wesleyan 101, Bowdoin 65
Manhattan 83, Quinnipiac 66

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn 72, Marquette 58
Wesleyan 81, Bowdoin 60

WOMEN'S SQUASH

NESCAC Tournament (Clinton, N.Y.)
Championship
Trinity 9, Tufts 0

SOFTBALL

Norfolk State Tourney (Norfolk, Va.)
Hampton 13, Hartford 0

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Rutgers 7, UConn 0
Monday's college schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Vermont at Hartford, 7p.m.
Eastern at Southern Maine, 7p.m.
Canisius at Fairfield, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

New Hampshire at Hartford, 3p.m.
Eastern at Southern Maine, 5p.m.
Tuesday's college schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Trinity at Elms, 7p.m.
Johnson & Wales at St. Joseph, 7p.m.
Merrimack at Sacred Heart, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Johnson & Wales at St. Joseph, 5p.m.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Quinnipiac at Rensselaer, 4p.m.
Conn. College at Trinity, 7p.m.
Wednesday's college schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Manhattan at Fairfield, 1p.m.
Maine at Hartford, 7p.m.
Western at Eastern, 7:30p.m.
Seton Hall at UConn, 8:30p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Western at Eastern, 5:30p.m.
Hartford at Maine, 7p.m.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Quinnipiac at LIU, 11 a.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

UConn at Fairfield, 3p.m.
Thursday's college schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Central at Bryant, 7p.m.
Wagner at Sacred Heart, 7p.m.
St. Joseph at Yeshiva, 8p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Bryant at Central, 7p.m.
Quinnipiac at Fairfield, 7p.m.
Sacred Heart at Wagner, 7p.m.

BIG EAST BASKETBALL

MEN'S Team	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
Providence	11-1	.917	21-2	.913
Villanova	12-3	.800	19-6	.760
UConn	8-5	.615	17-7	.708
Creighton	7-5	.583	15-8	.652
Marquette	8-6	.571	16-9	.640
Xavier	7-6	.538	17-7	.708
Seton Hall	6-7	.462	15-8	.652
St. John's	5-8	.385	13-11	.542
Butler	5-9	.357	12-13	.480
DePaul	3-10	.231	12-11	.522
Georgetown	0-12	.000	6-17	.261

Saturday's late results
Creighton 80, Georgetown 66
Villanova 73, Seton Hall 67
Butler 85, Marquette 79
Providence 76, DePaul 73(OT)
Sunday's result
UConn 63, St. John's 60
Tuesday's schedule
Villanova at Providence, 8p.m.
Butler at DePaul, 9p.m.
WOMEN'S Team CONF | CPCT | OVR | PCT || UConn | 11-1 | .917 | 17-5 | .773 |
Creighton	13-4	.765	18-7	.720
DePaul	12-4	.750	20-7	.741
Villanova	11-4	.733	17-7	.708
Marquette	10-5	.667	17-7	.